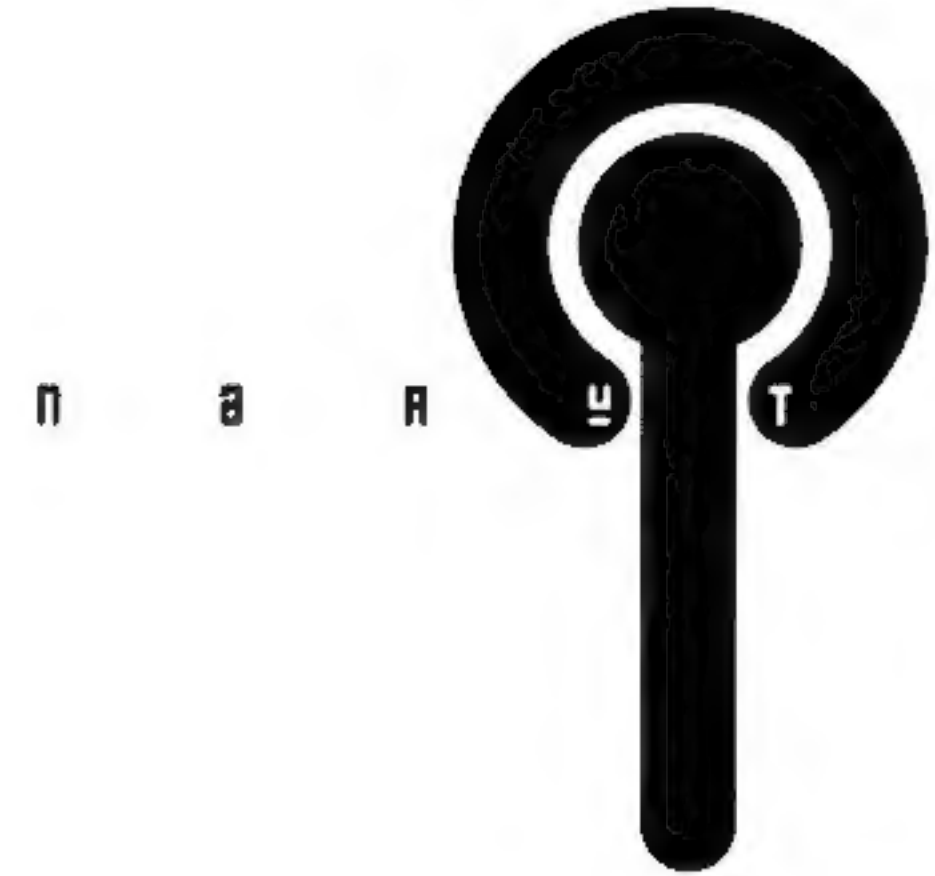


Shadow Star - Narutaru

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Edited by Jinchi

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# 07-GHOST

10

骸なる星の珠たる子

鬼頭莫宏
MOHIRO KITOH

死。

DEATH

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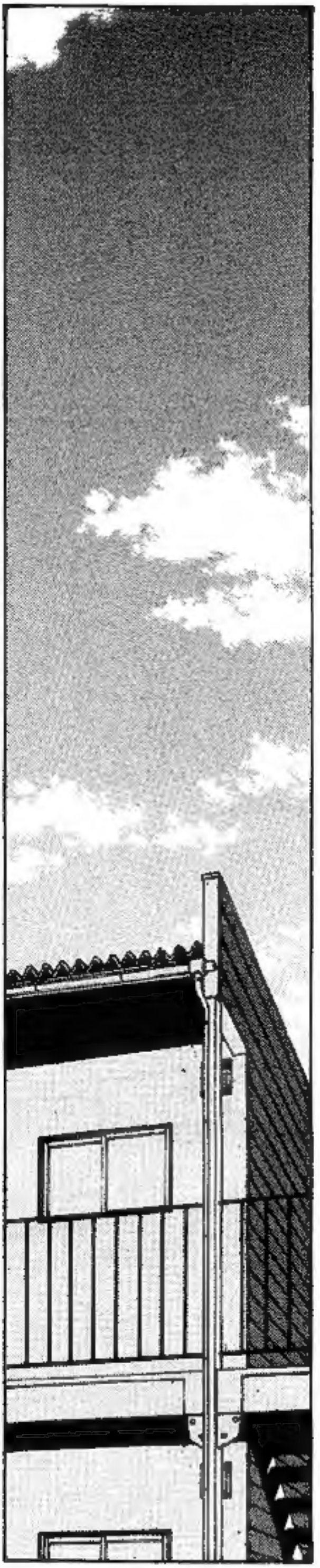
# CHAPTER 49
# BEGINNING OF A WEEKEND



MORNING, PAPA!

SNIFF

CLEARLY, I...

...AM IN JAPAN!

CLEAR BROTH AND SOY SAUCE...

...I SECURE THE GOOD TASTE...

UNDER MY LITTLE POT COVER...

AH...

...BUT SADLY, SADLY...

WELL...

WHY THEN?

HOW DOES THE SONG GO ON?

...IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!

UM...

HAHAHA!

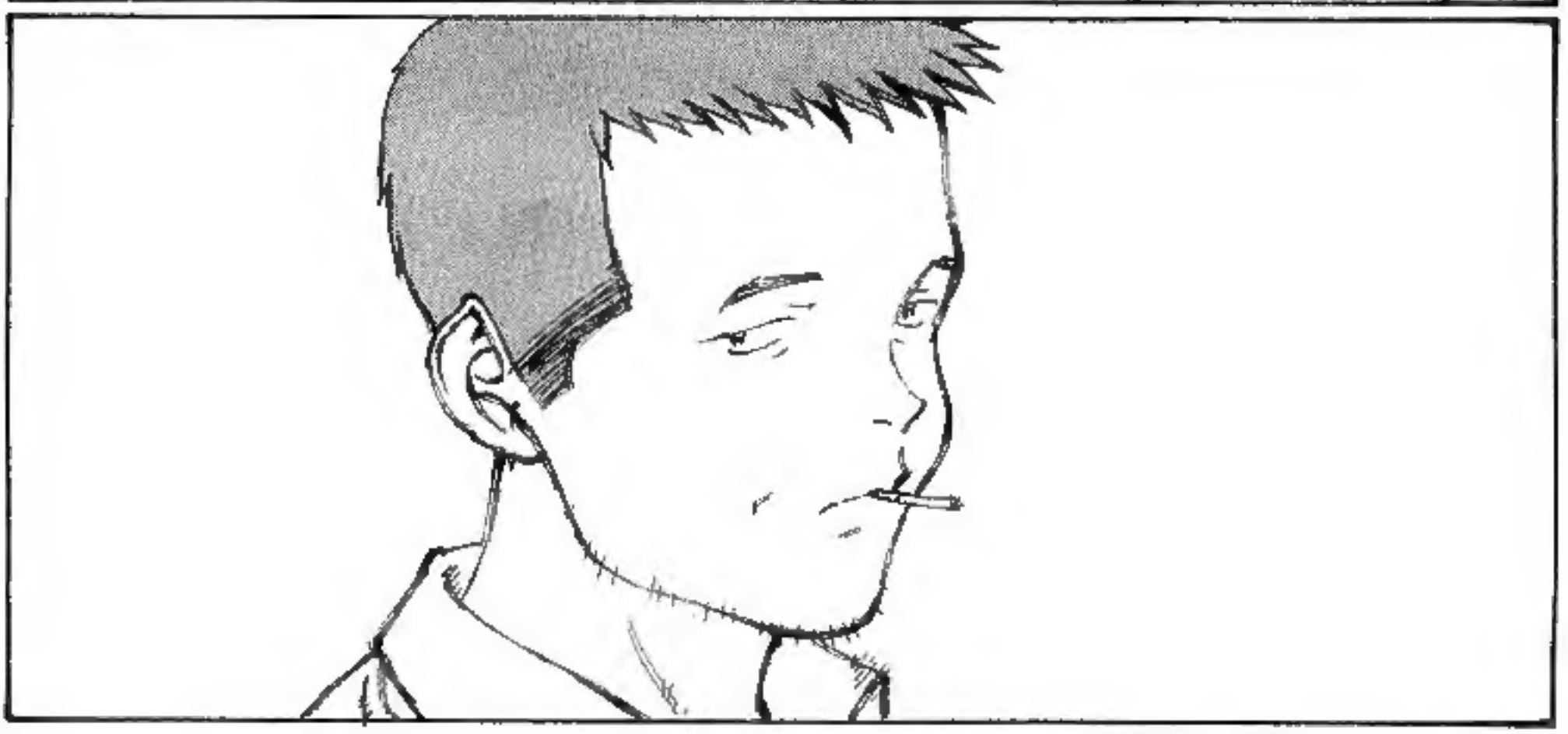
I DIDN'T LIKE IT IN THE BEGINNING...

I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.

THAT'S HOW THE SONG CONTINUES!

"...I CAN'T SECURE YOUR HEART THAT WAY TOO."

SCALDED MY FINGER...
OUCH!
WELL, THEN AGAIN IT ISN'T ALL THAT GREAT!
BUT NOW YOU FIND IT GREAT?
...LET'S HAVE BREAKFAST!
COME...



BUT YOUR COOKING IS STILL THE BEST FOR ME!

THE FOOD IN RUSSIA WAS PRETTY GOOD TOO.

ITADAKI-MASU!

ITADAKI-MASU!

...STAYING WITH HIM FOR 2 MONTHS!

BUT YOU WERE...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO!

I SHOULD GO VISIT TSURUMARU-KUN AGAIN TO THANK HIM.

WAH...

That's going to end up lost in his junk anyway!

Here, a matroschka!

BUT I HAVE A GIFT FOR HIM!

...THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

YOU DROPPED BY BEFORE YOU LEFT...

THEN BRING THE BACKPACK BACK TO HIM.

AH...

IT'S OKAY, PAPA!

YEAH, BUT...

I'LL BRING IT ALONG THE NEXT TIME I GO THERE!

HE ISN'T REALLY ONE TO CARE ABOUT MANNERS ANYWAY.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS ARE STARTING SOON...

NO, NO!

I JUST GOT THAT BACK!

HMM...

I COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL THE WHOLE TIME!

IS THAT YOUR BIGGEST WORRY?

BOY, I'M HAPPY MY ARM IS HEALED!

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT FOR NEW YEAR.

THIS YEAR YOU'RE COMING ALONG TO GRANDPA'S, PAPA!

WHAT, SO LATE ALREADY?

YES, OKAY.

FINISH IT UP YOURSELF AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING IT!

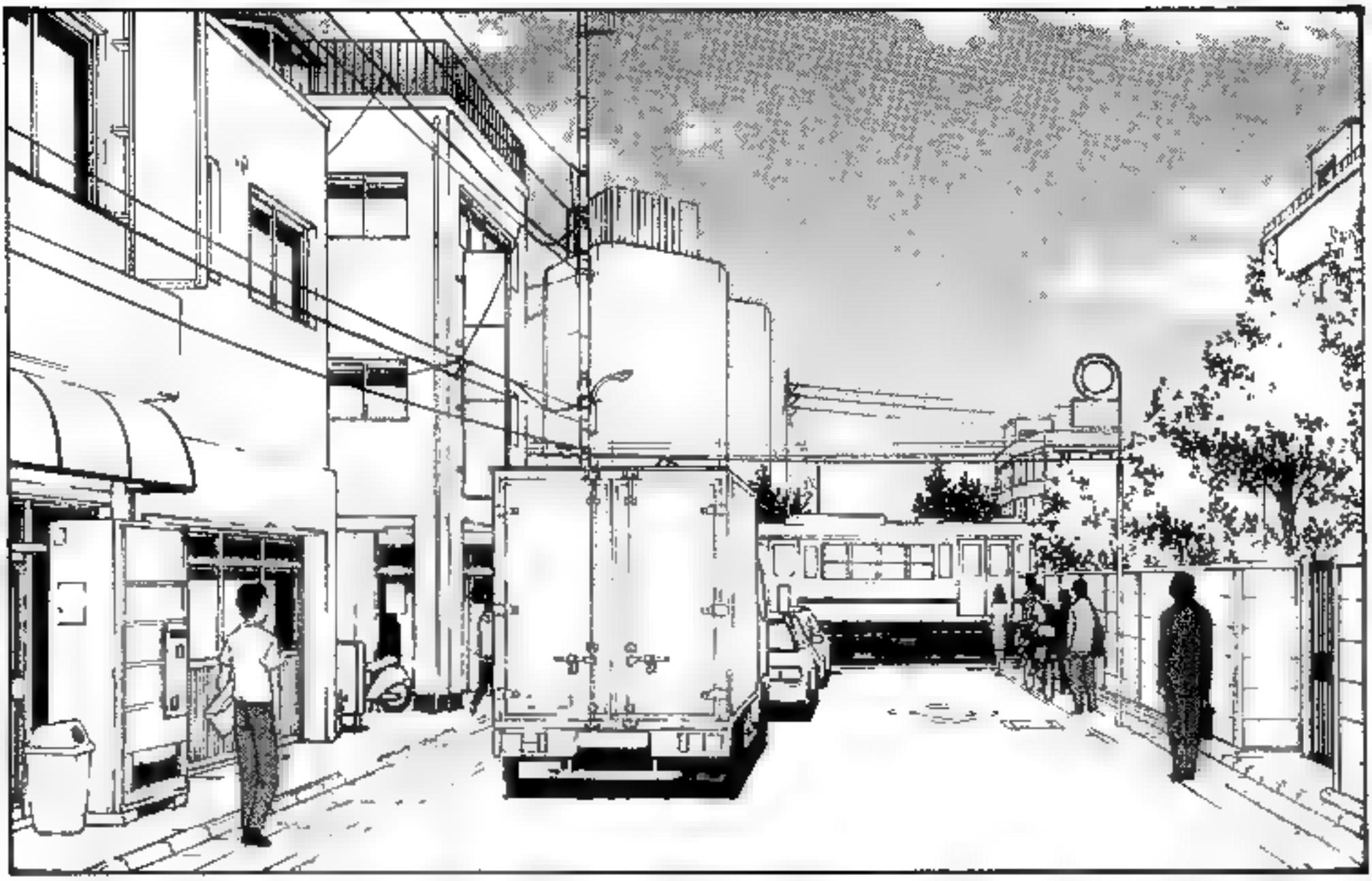
I COULDN'T FINISH MAKING YOUR LUNCH.

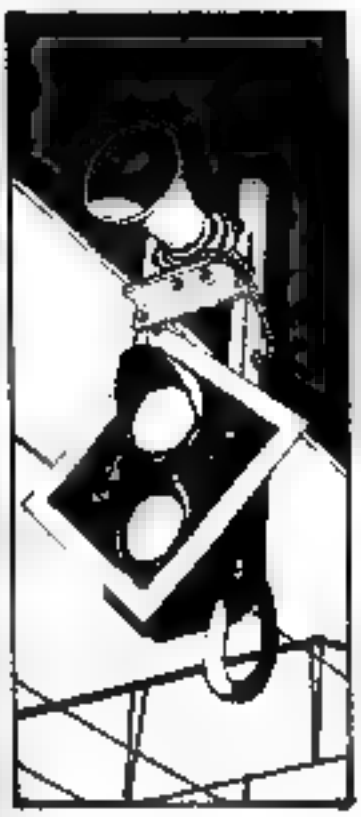
RIDE SAFELY!

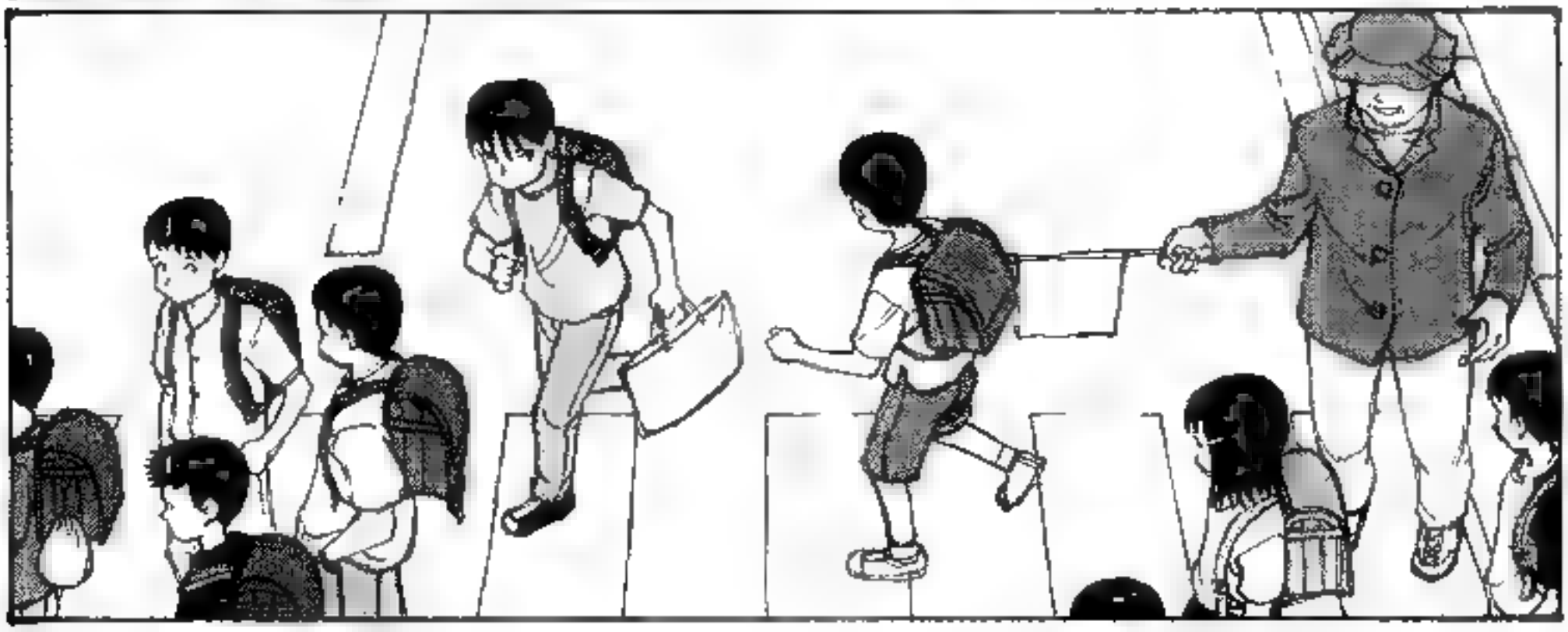
YES.

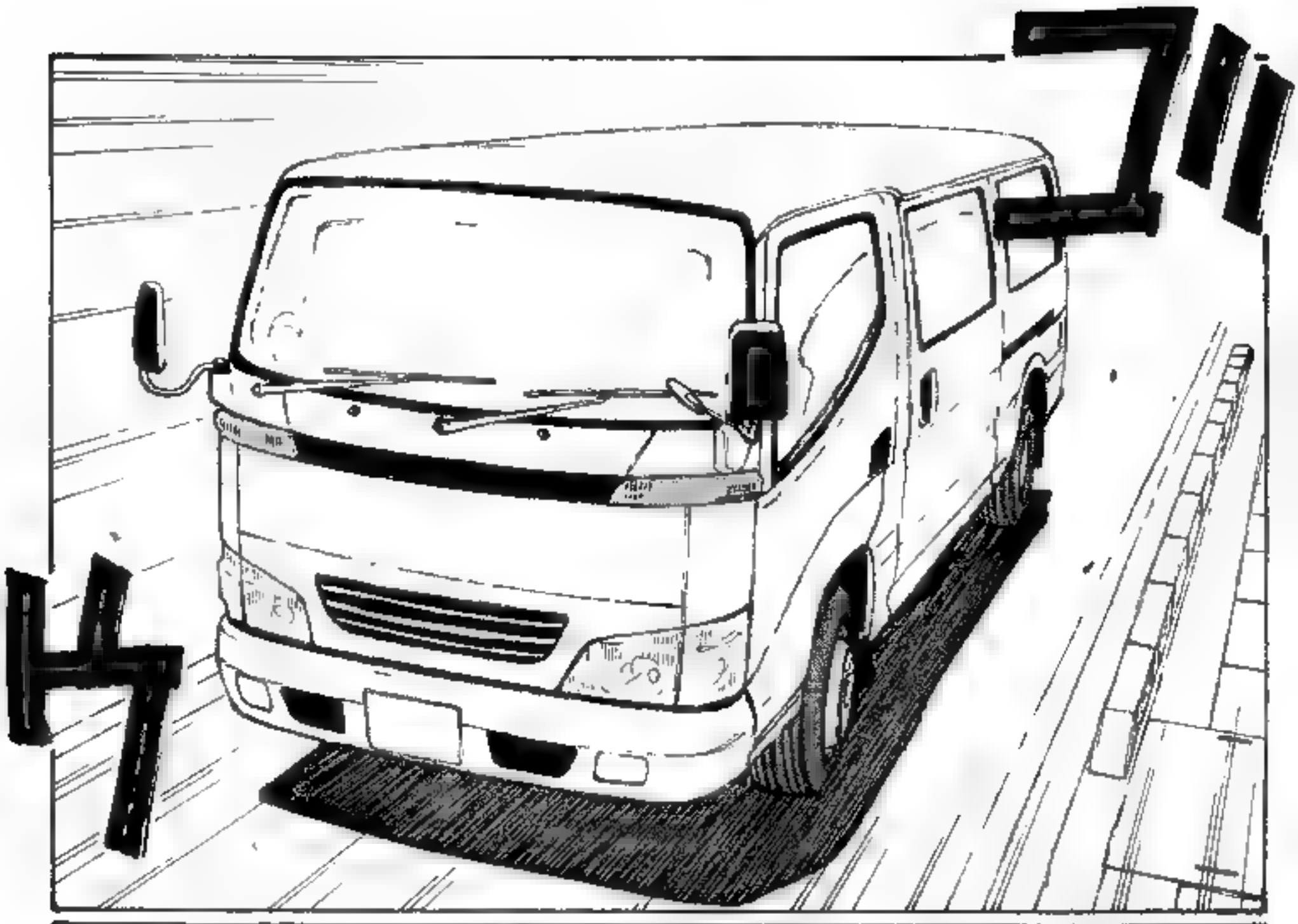
AND REMEMBER TO LOCK UP!

SO, I'M GOING NOW!





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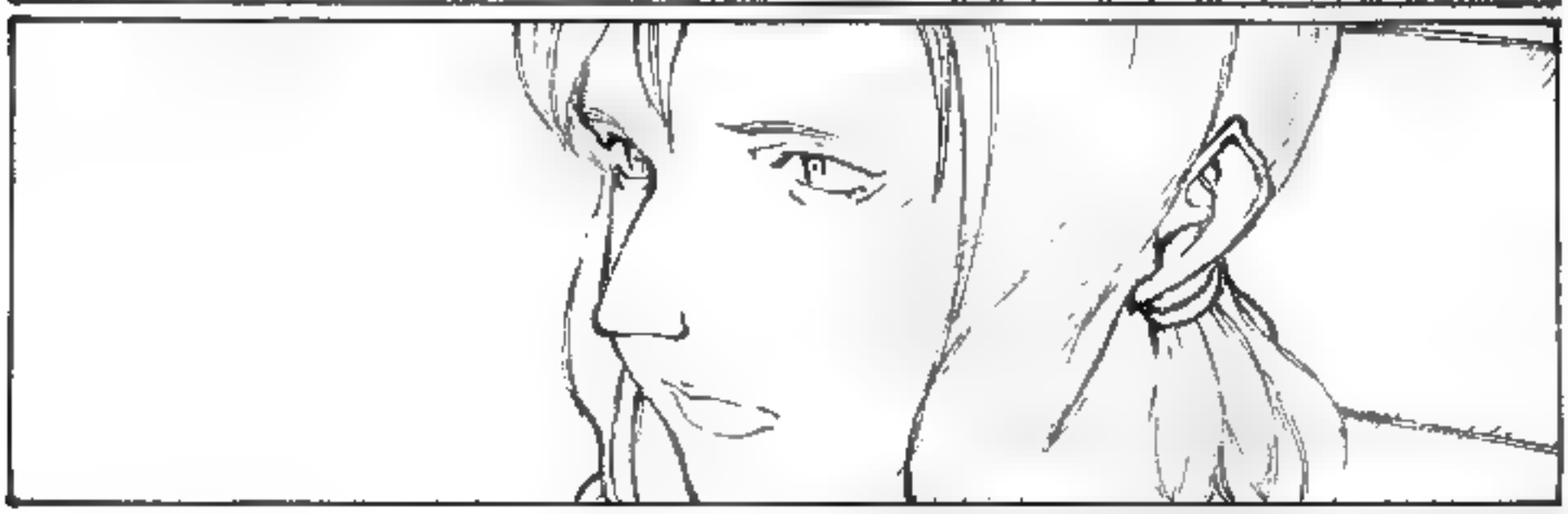
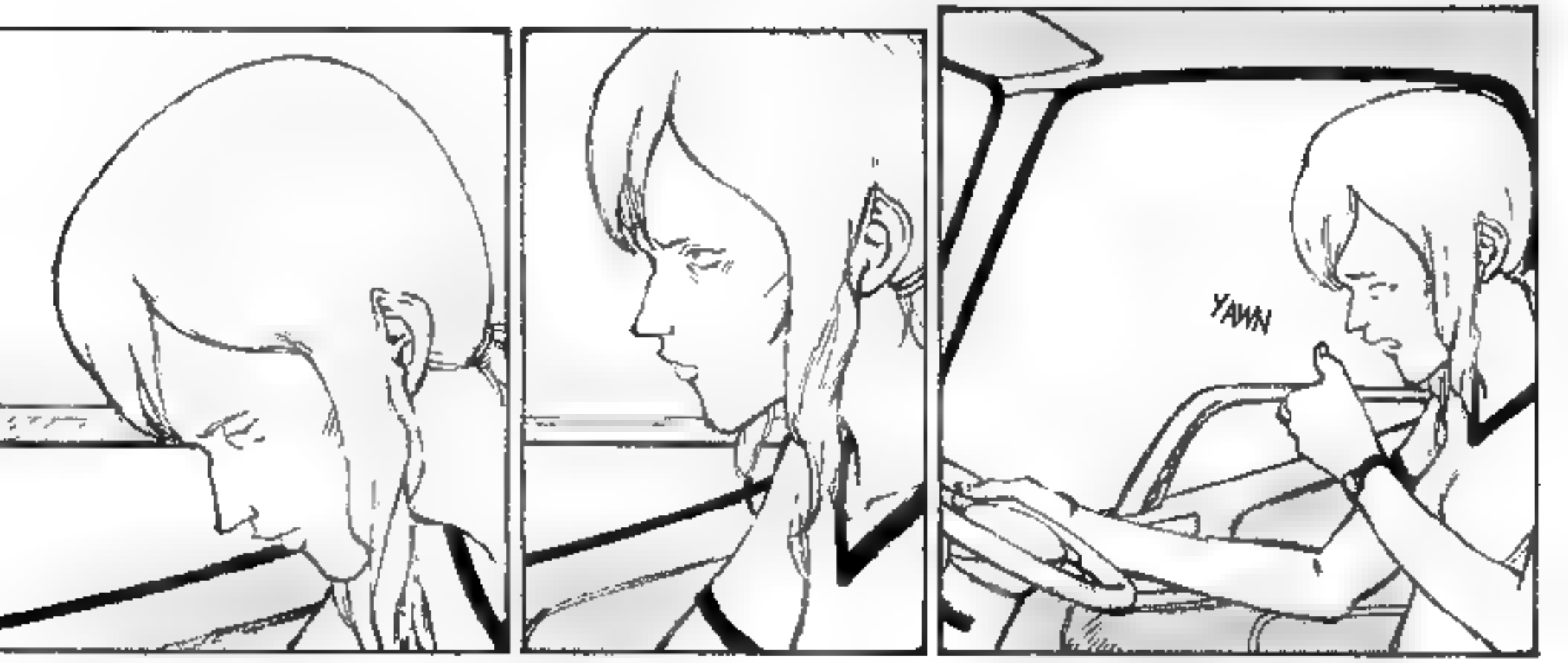
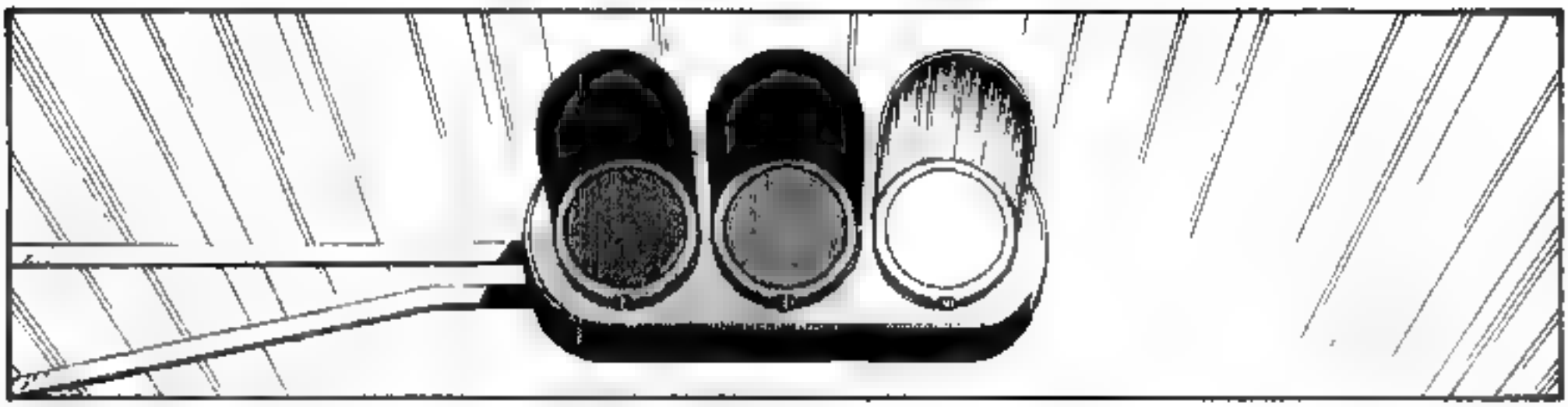
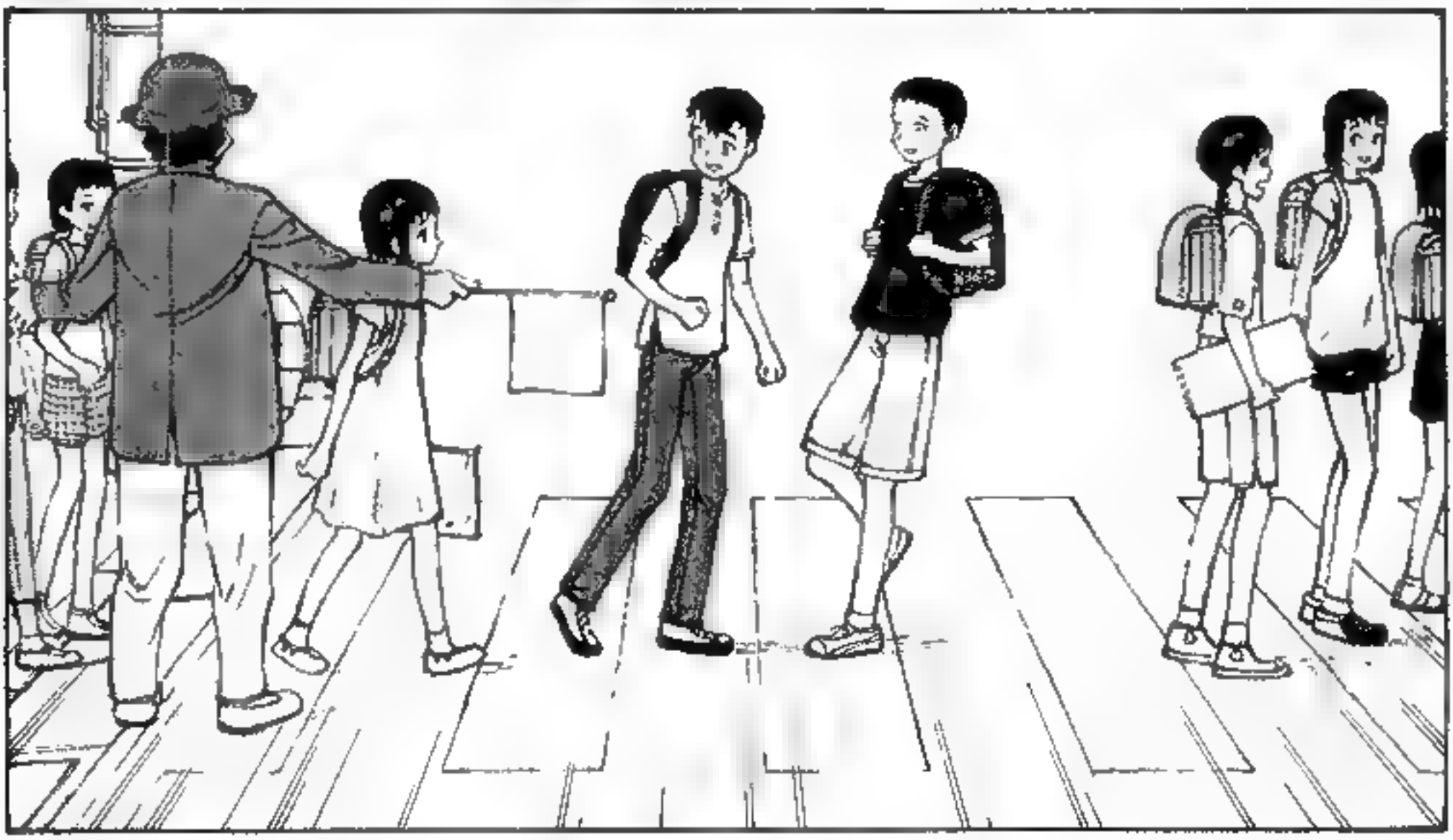



YAWN





*(sfx) Sound of railway crossing closing

AH...

TWO KIDS HAVE BEEN KNOCKED DOWN!

KYAAAAAA

AN AMBULANCE!

HURRY!

CHAPTER 43 END

# なるたる

10

鬼頭莫宏

AFTERNOON

アフタヌーン
KC315

# なるたる

10

鬼頭莫宏

講談社

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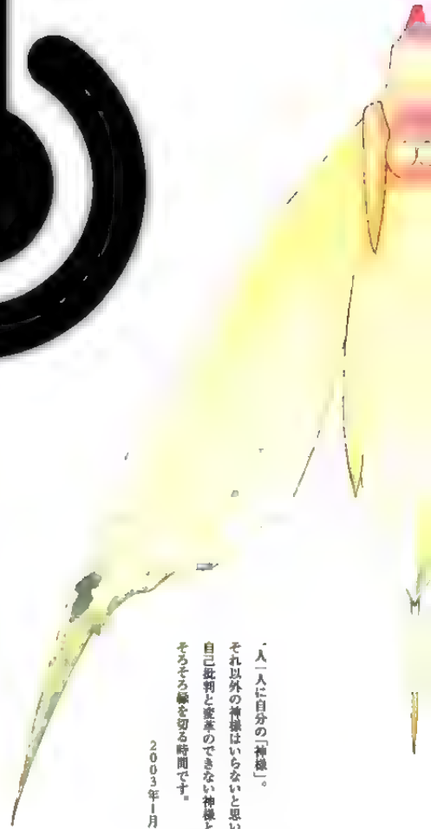
アフタヌーンKC
講談社 定価:本体524円(税別)

還方からの、シイナを呼ぶ声。
シイナはその声に呼ばれ、
在日米軍が管理する封鎖地区に入る。
そこには米軍から逃げ出した「竜の子」、
そしてそれを追う女がいた。
「竜の子」に対する米軍の
執拗な攻撃が開始された　。



「人一人に自分の「神様」。
それ以外の神様はいらないと思います。
自己批判と変革のできない神様とは
そろそろ縁を切る時間です。
2003年1月　鬼頭　莫宏

星なる子

# なるたる

## 骸なる星の珠たる子

NARUTARU

鬼頭莫宏

アフタヌーン
KC315

なるたる

10

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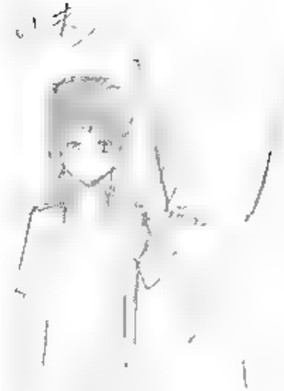

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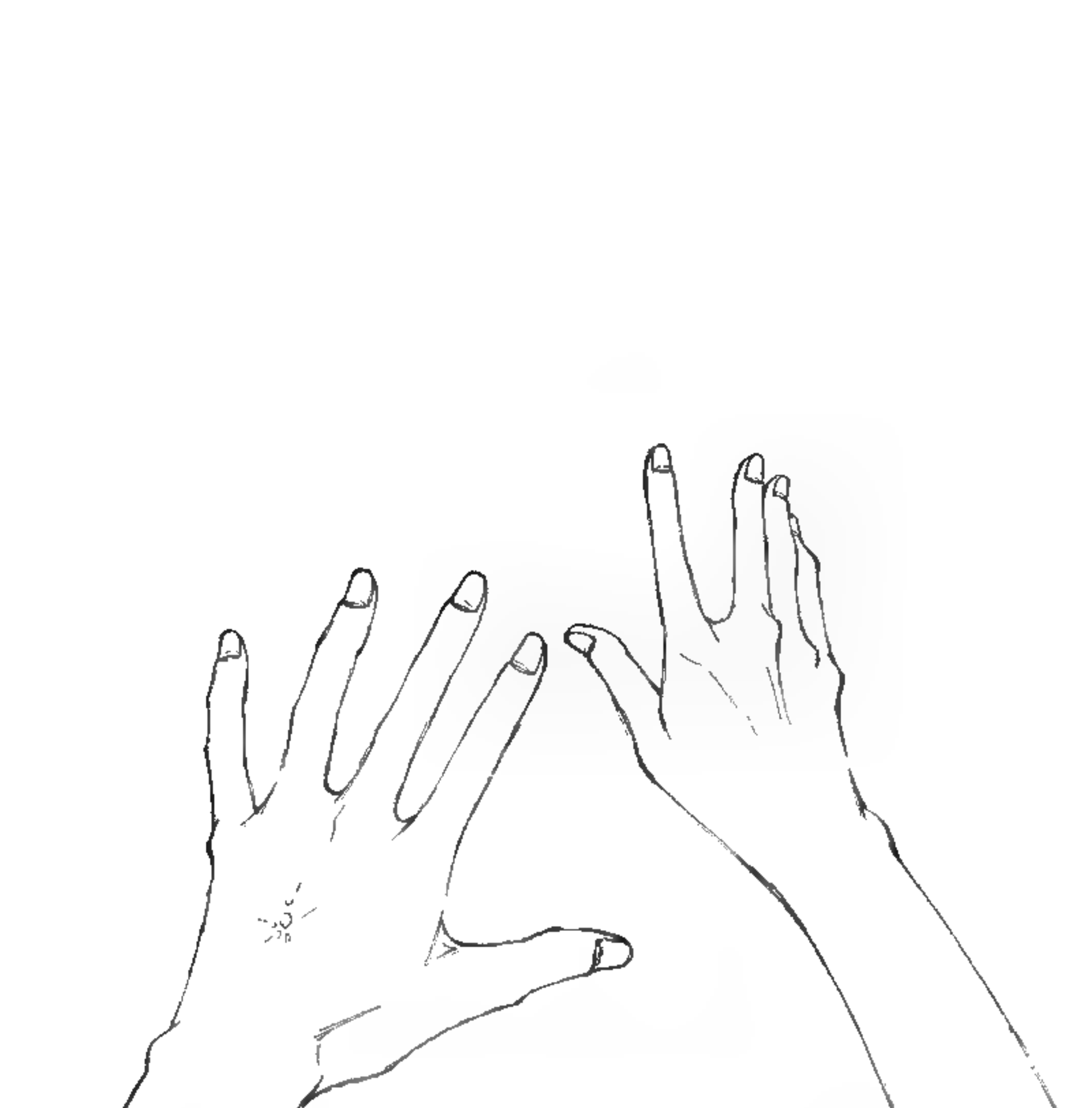

# CHAPTER 50
# CONSUMING LIGHT

LAB TECHNICIAN FOR THE US SECRET SERVICE.

JANE FRANKLIN...

...38 YEARS OLD.

IT SUITS US BETTER LIKE THIS ANYWAY!

THAT INFORMATION WAS WRONG.

BUT THE NEWS SAID SHE'S A SOLDIER ATTACHED TO THE MARINES?

WHAT WAS SHE THINKING?

THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED CLOSE TO THE HIGASHI-IWAKUNI BASE.

HMM...

...THAT'S ENOUGH.

HIT AND RUN INVOLVING 2 KIDS WITH A STOLEN VEHICLE...

OH WELL, NEVER MIND.

IT'S ABOUT TIME THE US ARMY WITHDREW FROM JAPAN.

PLEASE CALL SUDOU-KUN.

AND NOT WITHOUT A NICE SCANDAL AS A PARTING GIFT!

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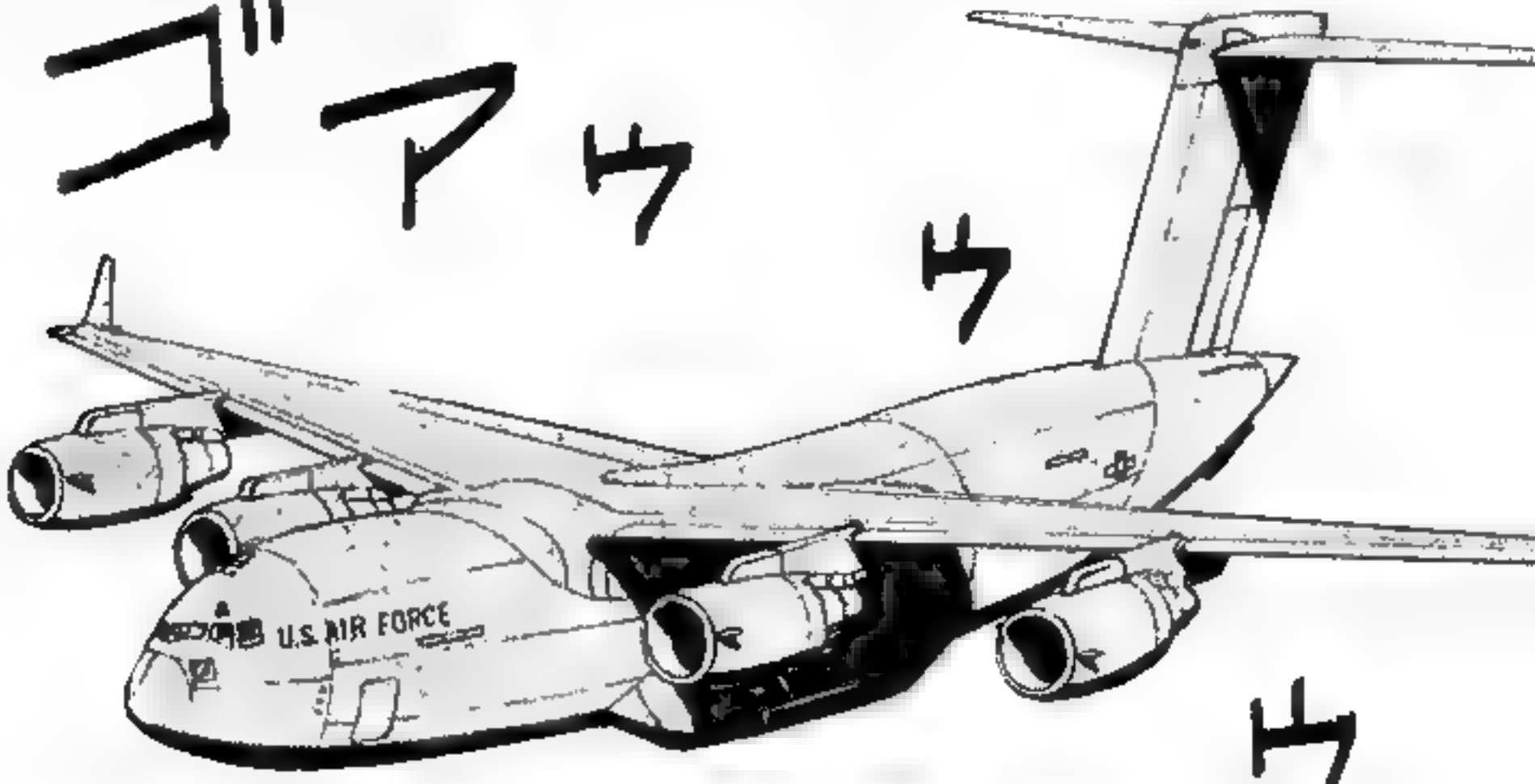
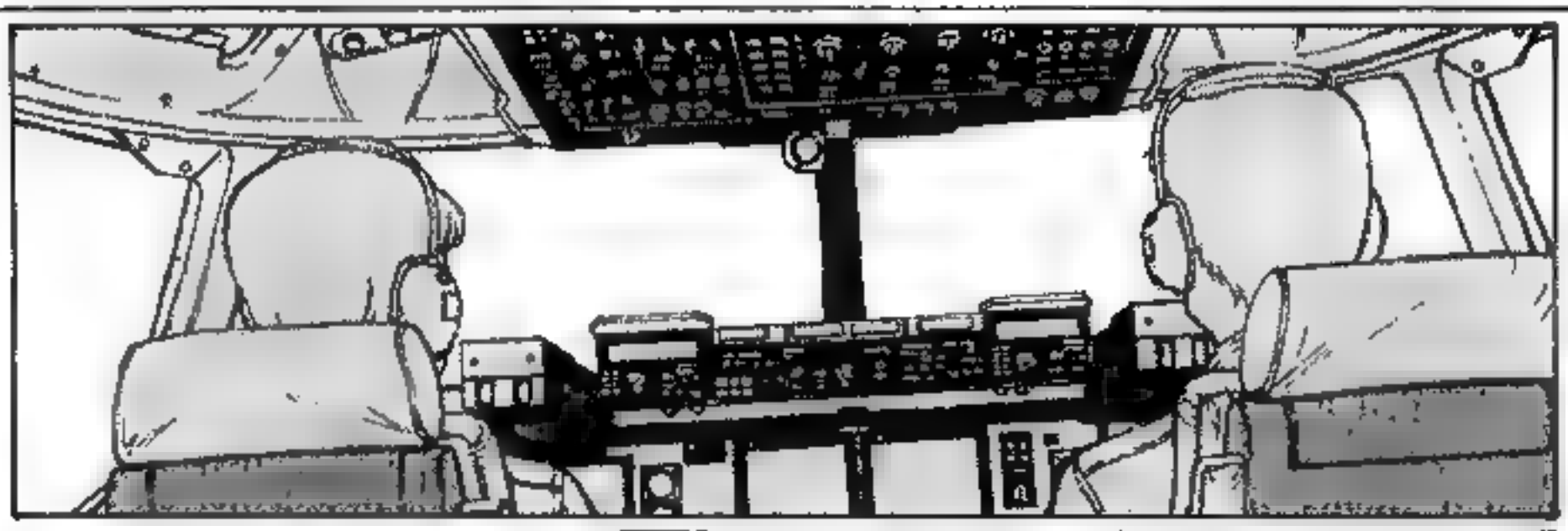


I REPEAT: MISSION IS UNCHANGED.

MISSION IS UNCHANGED.

REQUEST CONFIRMATION THAT MISSION WILL BE CONTINUED.

BUDWEISER 13 HERE, GUIDANCE SIGNAL RECEIVED, WE'RE ON COURSE.

OH MY GOD!

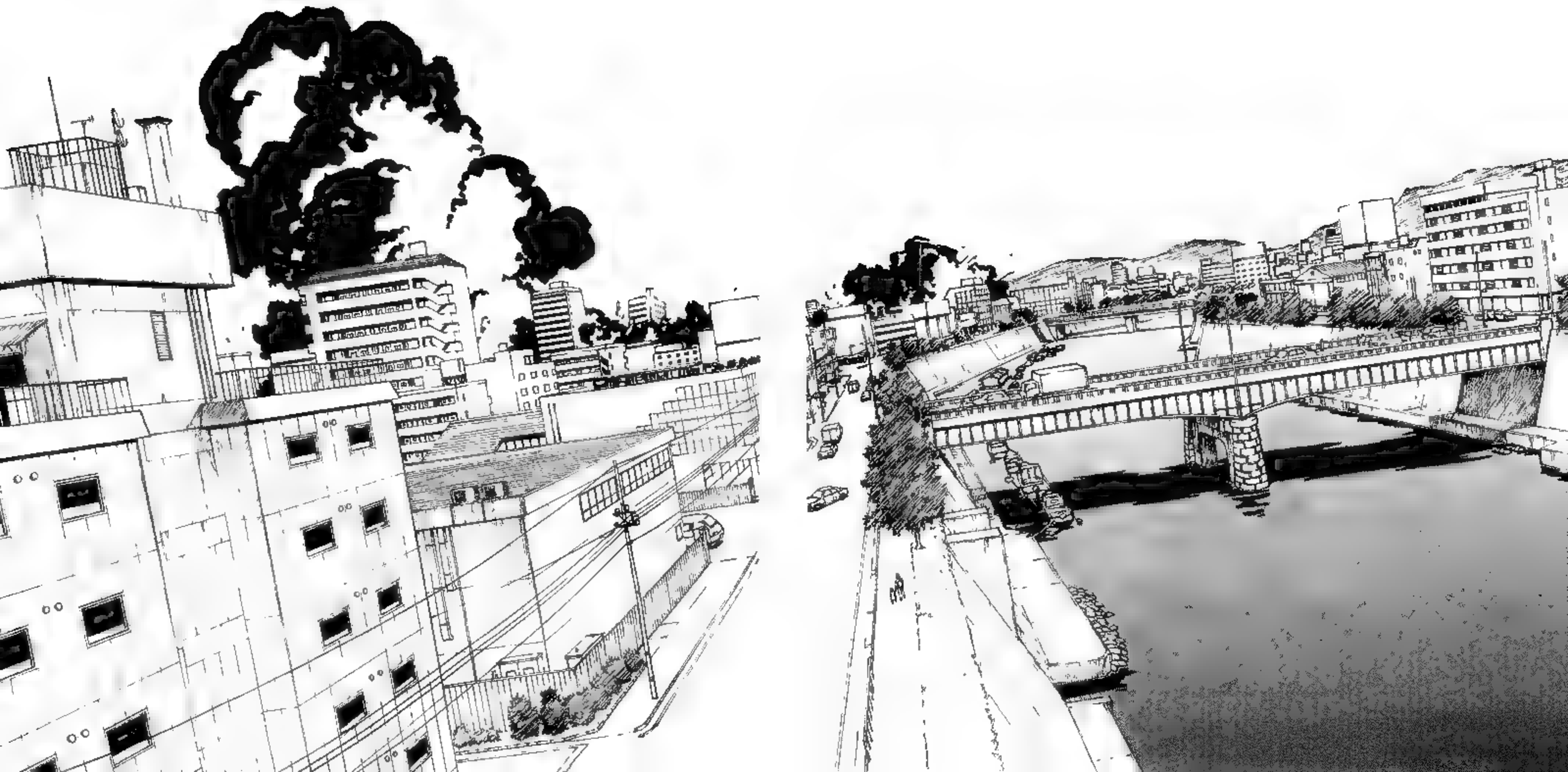
WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY! LOSING CONTROL OF THE AIRCRAFT!

BUDWEISER 13 HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO USE THE EJECTION SEATS!

ENGINE POWER FALLING.

WE'RE LOSING ALTITUDE!



AH...

UWAAH!

IT'S REALLY HOT THIS YEAR!

IT'S ALWAYS HOT IN SUMMER!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NARUCHI?

ANYWAY, CIAO.

I'M GOING TO THE CLUB.

BYE!

SEEYA SOON!

THERE'S THIS OLDER SCHOOLMATE THAT SHE REALLY LOOKS UP TO...

NARUCHI HAS MASTERED THE LOCAL SLANG!

AHAHAHA! "SEEYA SOON"...

HMM?

DO YOU KNOW HER?

MAMA!

GET IN, SHIINA, I'LL DRIVE YOU BACK.

GOOD DAY!

THAT DOESN'T MATTER! JUST GET IN!

THAT'S NOT ALLOWED AT OUR SCHOOL.

BUT NO!

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS...

...LOOKING OUT FOR HER!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SCHOOL?

THE FIRST TRIMESTER IS ALMOST OVER NOW.

AHA.

NOTHING SPECIAL.

OVER THE CITY?!

AN US ARMY TRANSPORT PLANE HAS CRASHED?!

ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF INJURED AND DEAD ARE VERY HIGH.

WE INTERRUPT OUR PROGRAMME FOR A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

TODAY AT 11:25 AM A TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT OF THE US ARMY CRASHED OVER THE BUSINESS DISTRICT IN THE CITY CENTER.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE PREFECTURE HAS DEPLOYED THE SELF-DEFENCE FORCES.

A WIDE AREA AROUND THE SCENE HAS BEEN CLOSED OFF, BUT EVEN FROM HERE CLOUDS OF SMOKE ARE VISIBLE INDICATING A LARGE FIRE.

BUT FOR NOW WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR A WHILE.

IT WASN'T ME!

REPEAT OF THE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: TODAY AT 11:25 AM...

...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING BUGGING ME.

ACTUALLY I DON'T REALLY MIND THIS DEVELOPMENT ...

...AND JUST 20 KILOMETERS APART.

...THEN THE CRASH...

THE INCIDENT THIS MORNING INVOLVING THE EMPLOYEE OF THE US GOVERNMENT ...

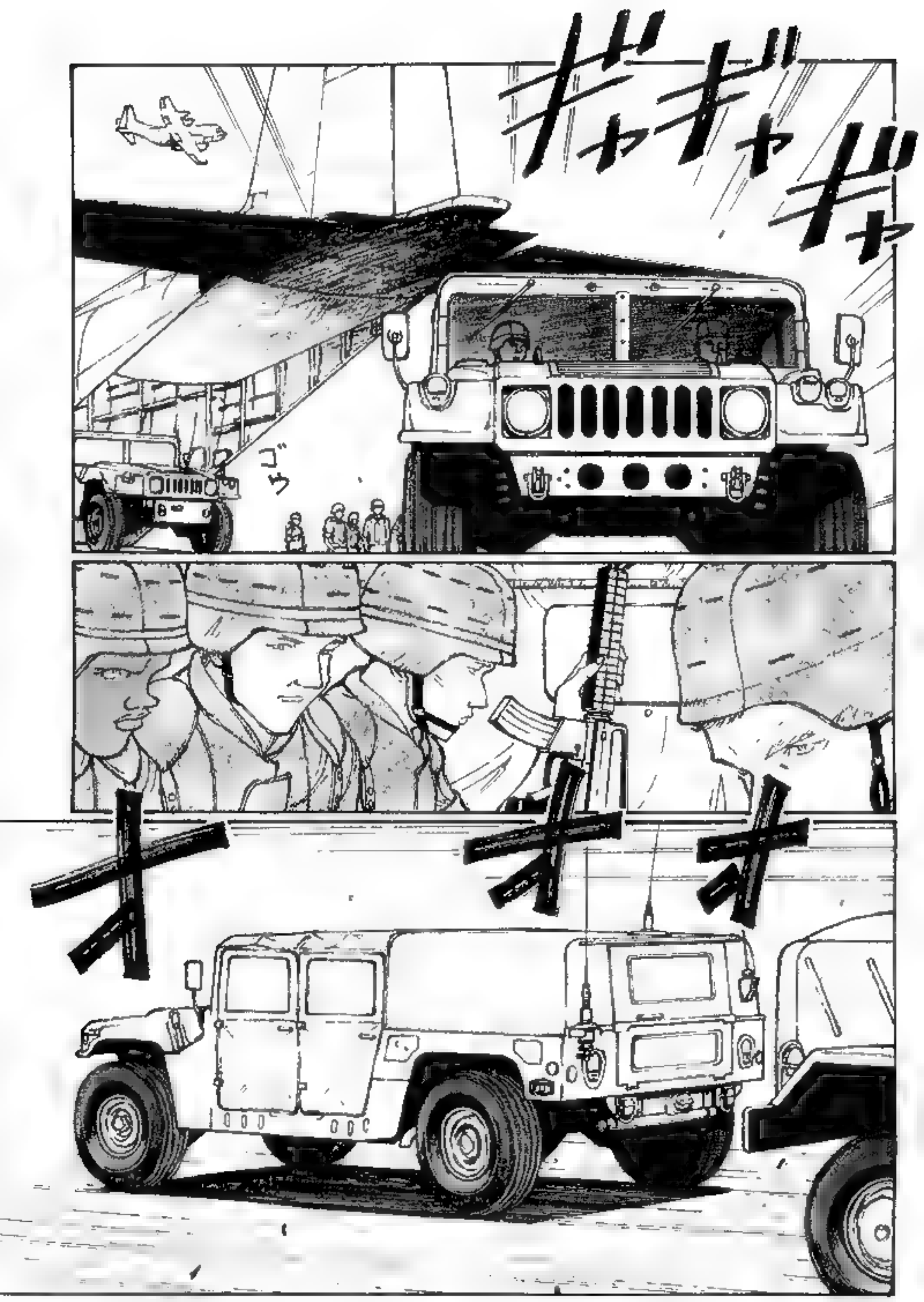
MR. VICE DIRECTOR ...

GET ME STAFF OFFICER YOSHI.

...IS MOVING OUT.

THE US ARMY...

AH?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AN AMERICAN PLANE IS SAID TO HAVE CRASHED...

...I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

CLEARLY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IS CALLED FOR.

LOCK ALL THE DOORS!

AND TODAY IS PAY DAY!

PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND EVACUATE.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED IN THIS AREA.

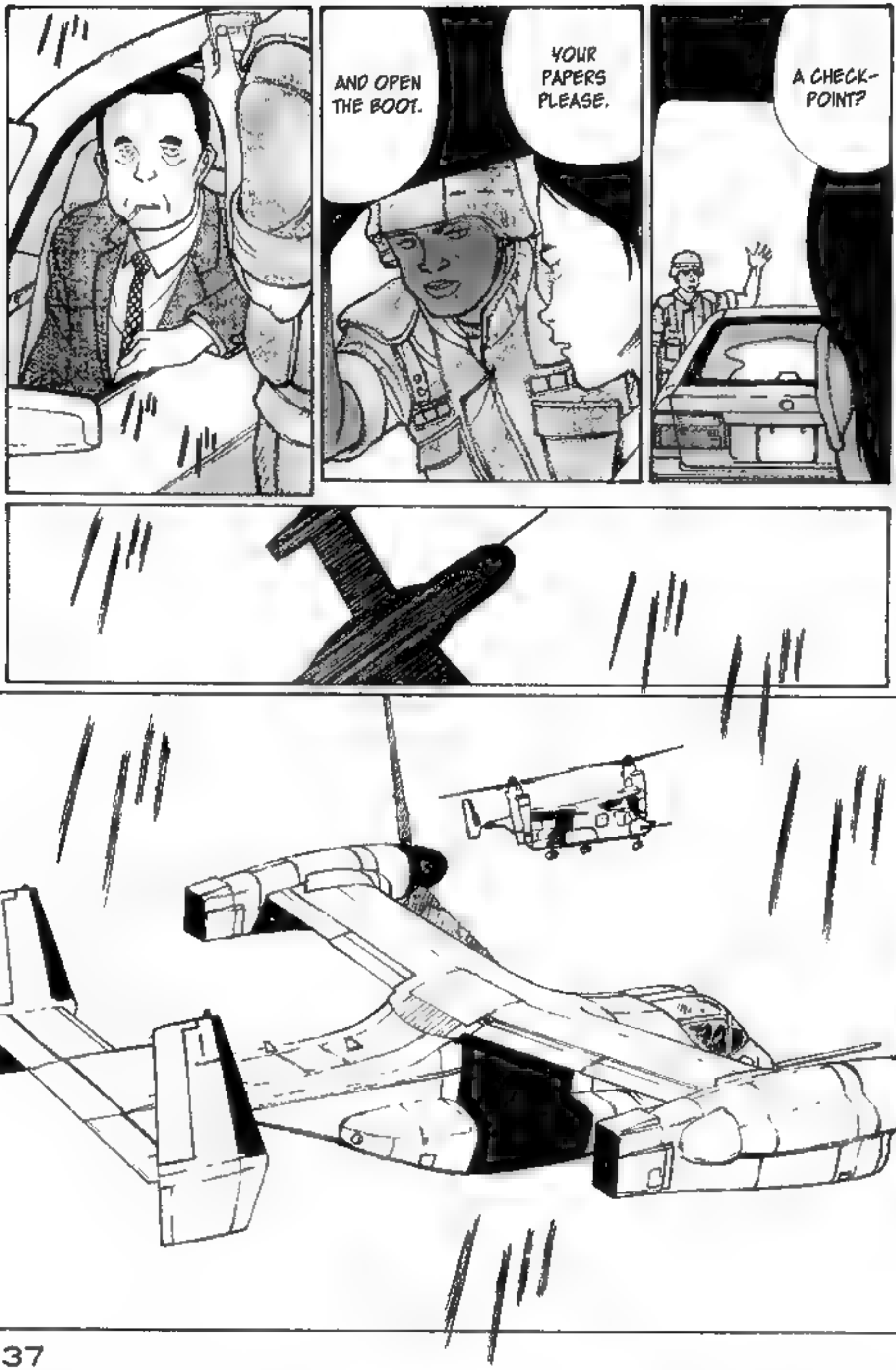
PLEASE TRY NOT TO USE YOUR OWN VEHICLES.

THEY WANT TO COVER IT USING THE HOLIDAYS...

EVERYTHING'S PROBABLY STOPPED AT OUR FACTORY.

...WILL BE ENORMOUS.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT...


AND OPEN THE BOOT.
YOUR PAPERS PLEASE.
A CHECK-POINT?

...WITHIN A RADIUS OF 15 KILOMETERS OF THE CRASH SITE.

YES, BUT LIMITED TO AN AREA...

AND IT'S AN EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT!

THE GOVERNMENT IS JUST AN OLD FOLKS HOME FOR COWARDS AND USELESS FOOLS!

IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME.

AND THEY'RE TAKING CARE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY IN JAPAN?!

ALL EMERGENCY POWERS FOR THE AMERICAN FORCES?!

WHAT WAS THE AIRCRAFT CARRYING?

HMM?

EVACUATION OF THE PUBLIC WITHIN A 15 KILOMETER RADIUS...

ATOMIC WEAPONS...

...THEY SAY.

...WOULD GLADLY LEAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO THE SELF-DEFENCE FORCES!

NEITHER THE AMERICANS NOR OUR GOVERNMENT...

THIS SUSPICION WAS JUST FORCING ITS WAY THROUGH.

IN ANY CASE THE US ARMY IS FACING STIFF OPPOSITION NOW.

THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR JOB.

WE'RE NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE SECRET AGREEMENTS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

IS THIS OFFICIAL INFORMATION?

...I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL OF THIS.

BUT SOMEHOW...

PERHAPS IT'S A FEINT.

IF IT IS WORTH MAKING SO MANY ENEMIES OVER, THEN IT MUST BE SOMETHING BIG...

THEY PURPOSELY PLACE OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF THE JAPANESE...

...AND CHECK EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY.

USE YOUR CONNEC-TIONS.

SATOU-SAN, TRY TO FIND OUT WHICH DIVISIONS THE AMERICANS HAVE DEPLOYED.

...MAYBE ...

INTER-ESTING THOUGHT!

I'VE FOUND SOMETHING.

THE 26TH SQUADRON OF THE AIR FORCE.

AWACS* UNIT 103.

SPECIAL SQUADRON 453.

THE 28TH SQUADRON OF THE AIR FORCE.

FIRST BATTALION OF THE 11TH SPECIAL DIVISION OF THE ARMY.

THE 13TH MARINE CORPS.

*Airborne Warning and Control System, used to monitor airspace

YES.

THE SPECTRE IS A SO-CALLED "GUNSHIP", ISN'T IT?

...AC-130U SPECTRE.

E-8C JOINT STAR AND...

WHAT AIRCRAFT ARE THEY USING?

NONE OF THOSE ARE STATIONED IN JAPAN.

IT LOOKS MORE LIKE WAR!

THOSE AREN'T AIRCRAFT THEY'D COLLECT AN ATOMIC WEAPON WITH.

...HUNT A DRAGON CHILD!

THEY FORCE THE JAPANESE OUT OF THE AREA...

...IN ORDER TO...

START RESEARCHING ABOUT...
...JANE FRANKLIN.
SATOU-SAN.

...THEY CAN TAKE US FOR FOOLS?
DO THEY THINK...

SHIINA!

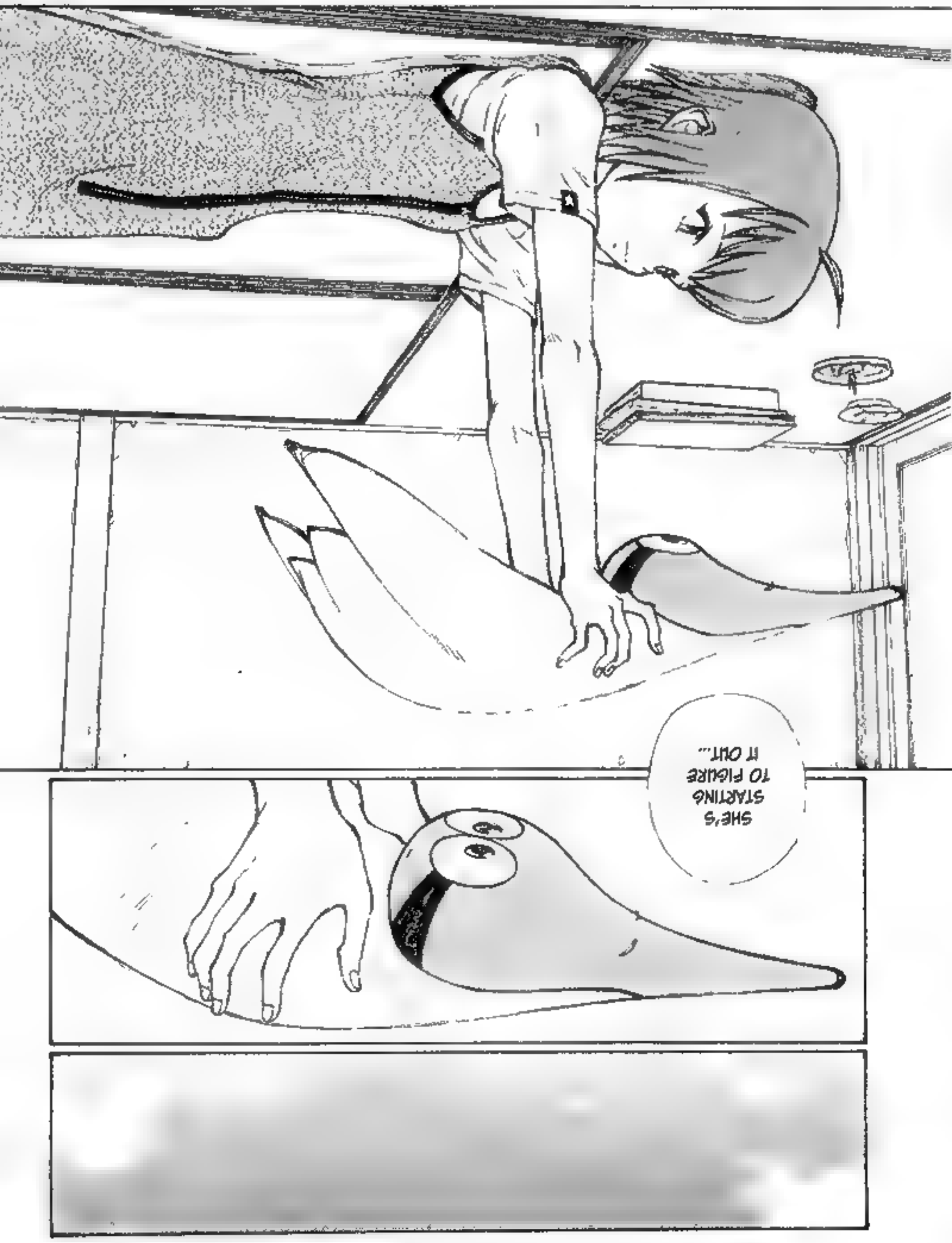
...YOU HEAR ME?

DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS...

BYE THEN,

AND SEND MY REGARDS TO GRANDPA AND GRANDMA!

YOU DON'T WANT PAPA TO BE SAD, DO YOU!


SHE'S STARTING TO FIGURE IT OUT...

...

UHH...

...OING SPORTS AGAIN.

I'M SO LAZY. ALTHOUGH I FEEL LIKE...

WHEN I MOVE MY BODY IT WORKS!

I'M FIT AGAIN!

YUP!

CAREFUL, CAREFUL...

LET'S GO, HOSHIMARU!

COME ON!

..

TAMAI SPEAKING ...

YES?

WHAT'S UP?

TSURU-MARU?!

EH?

IT PROBABLY MADE ITSELF SOMETHING LIKE A BLADE!

AS IF IT WAS OPENED FROM INSIDE!

THE BOX WAS EMPTY ALL OF A SUDDEN.

...YOU WENT HOME.

MAYBE YESTERDAY OR TODAY, AFTER...

NO IDEA, I JUST NOTICED IT A WHILE AGO!

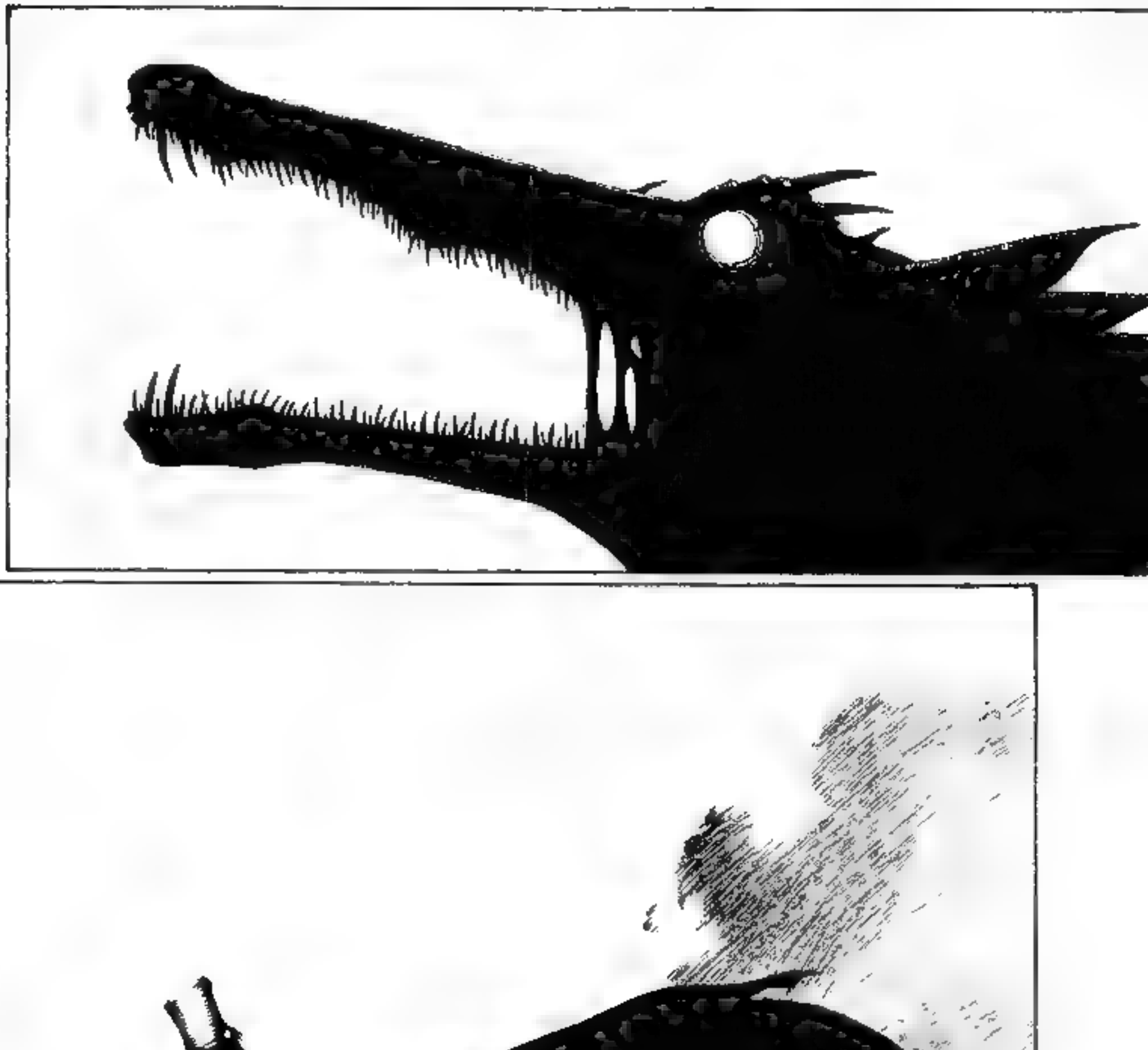
WHEN?

SHE'S NOT ALLOWED VISITS FROM FRIENDS YET.

FORGET IT.

I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK AT AKIRA-CHAN.

AH...



NO, IT'S MORE DIRECT...

INNER UNREST?

...LIKE A TUMULT...

I FEEL SOME-THING...

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S COMING FROM THERE!

NO.

CAN YOU ESTIMATE HOW FAR AWAY IT IS?

FROM HERE, HALF OF JAPAN IS WEST-SOUTHWEST OF US...

FROM WEST-SOUTHWEST THEN?

SHOULD WE GO?

NOTHING IMPORTANT!

NAH, I WAS JUST KIDDING!

I'M GOING NOW.

ARE YOU TAKING VAGINA DENTATA?

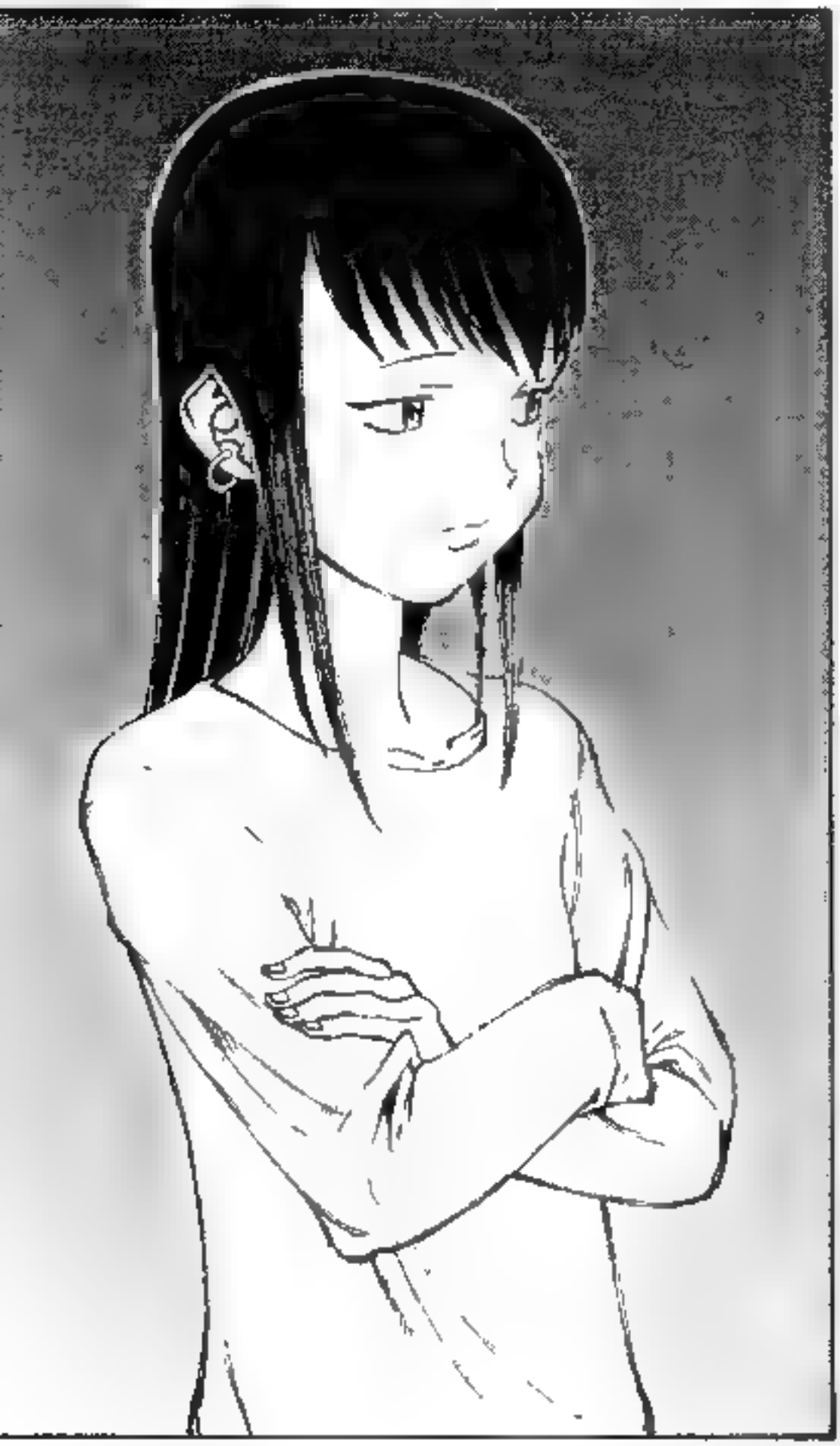
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE. YOU STAY HERE.

WHAT DO WE DO?

VERY BRAVE.

DAMN RIGHT SHE'S GOING!

SHE'S GOING.



YOU COULD SAY "PLEASE" FOR ONCE!

'COURSE.

BUT YOU KNOW ALREADY, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN RELY ON!

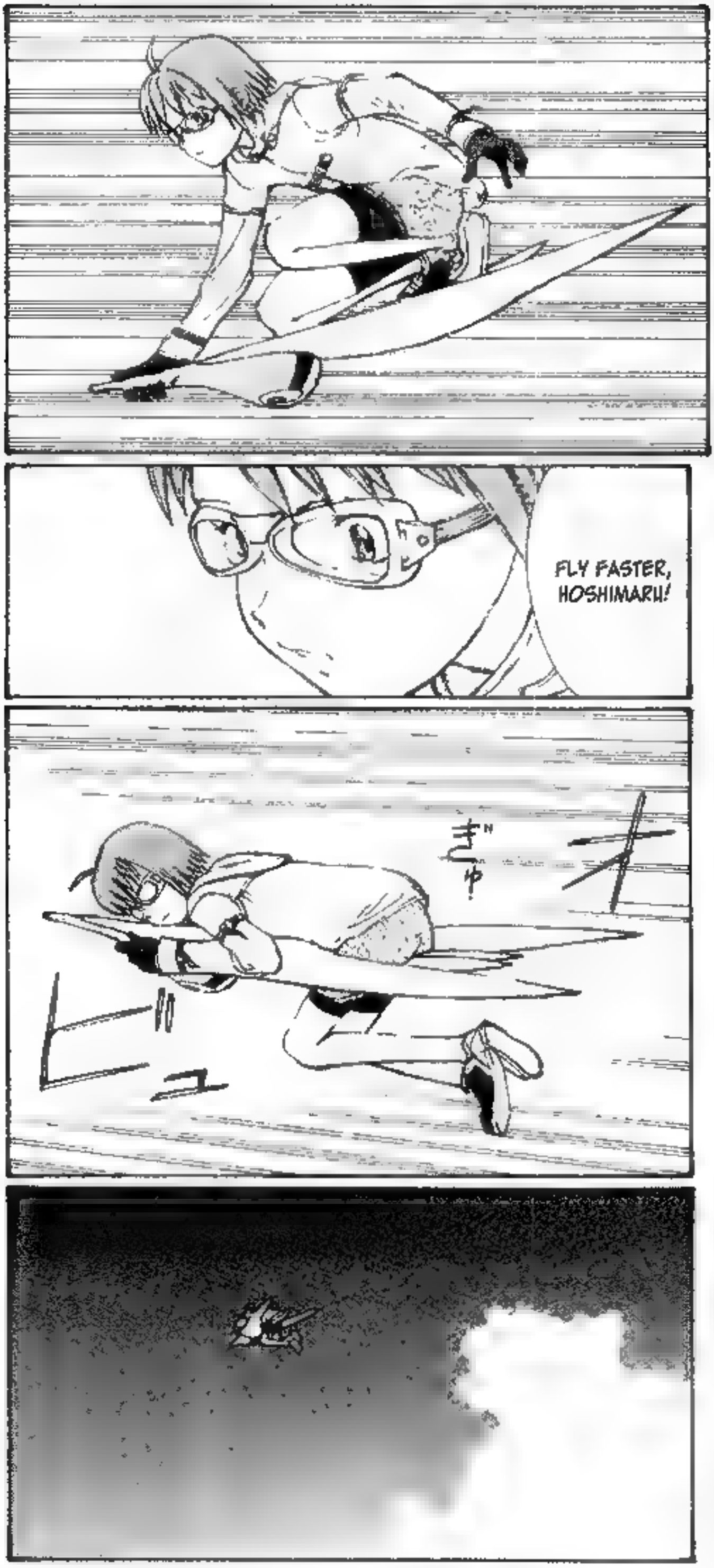
WE'RE GOING FLYING FOR A BIT, HOSHIMARU!

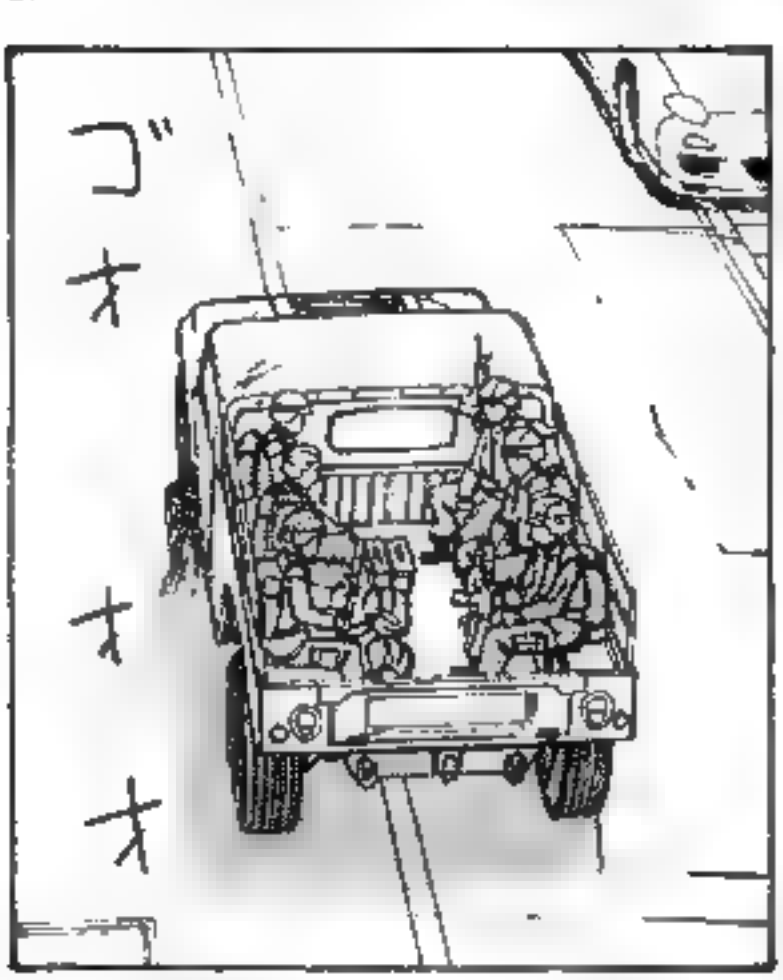
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE SOME MONEY ALONG.

...SO THAT WE AREN'T SEEN!

FLY STRAIGHT UP...

NOW!


FLY FASTER, HOSHIMARU!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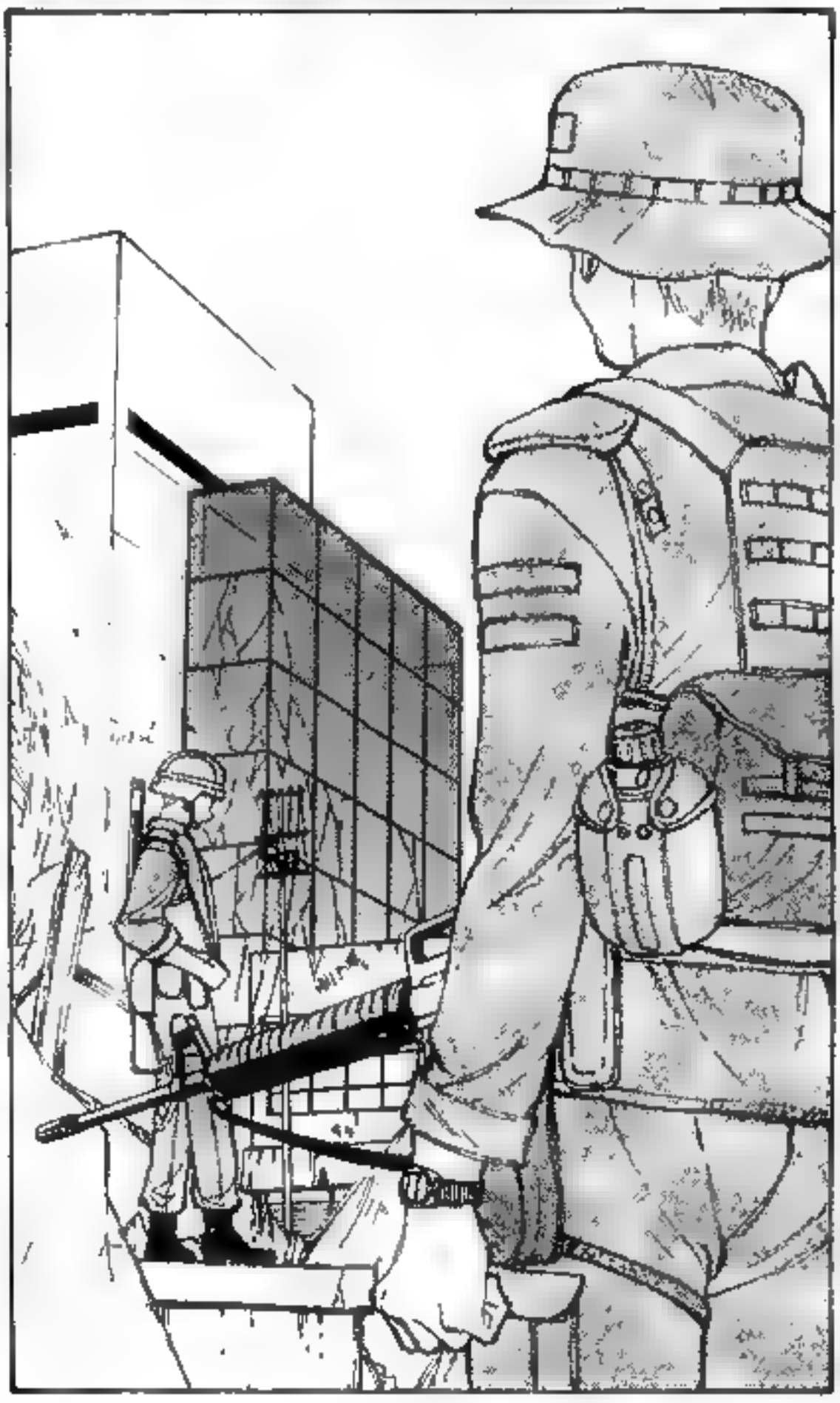
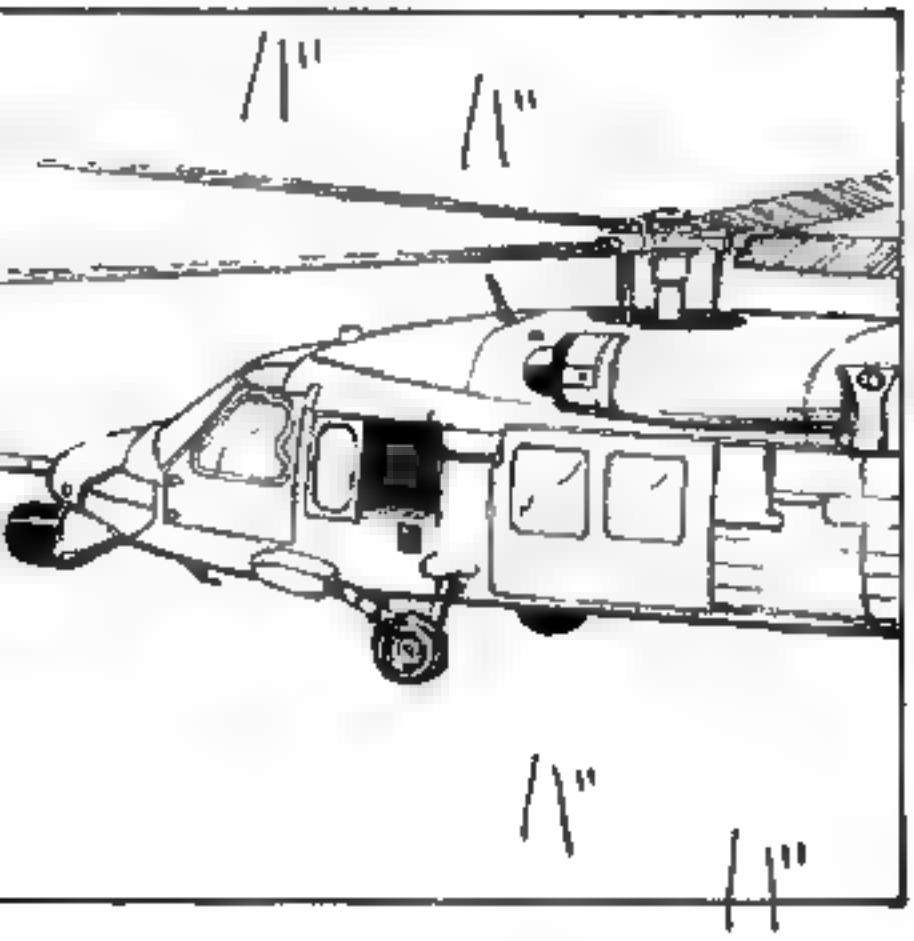
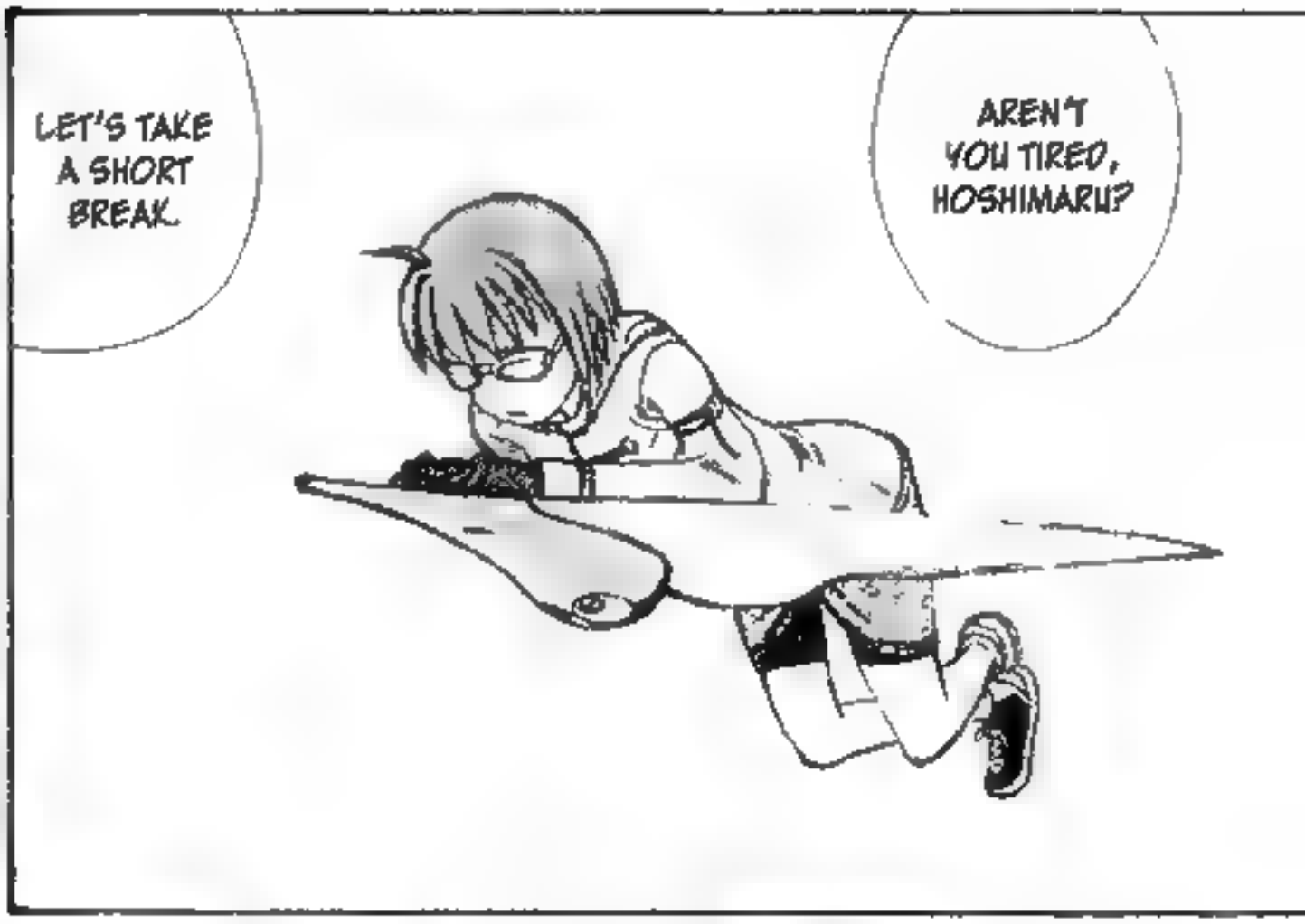
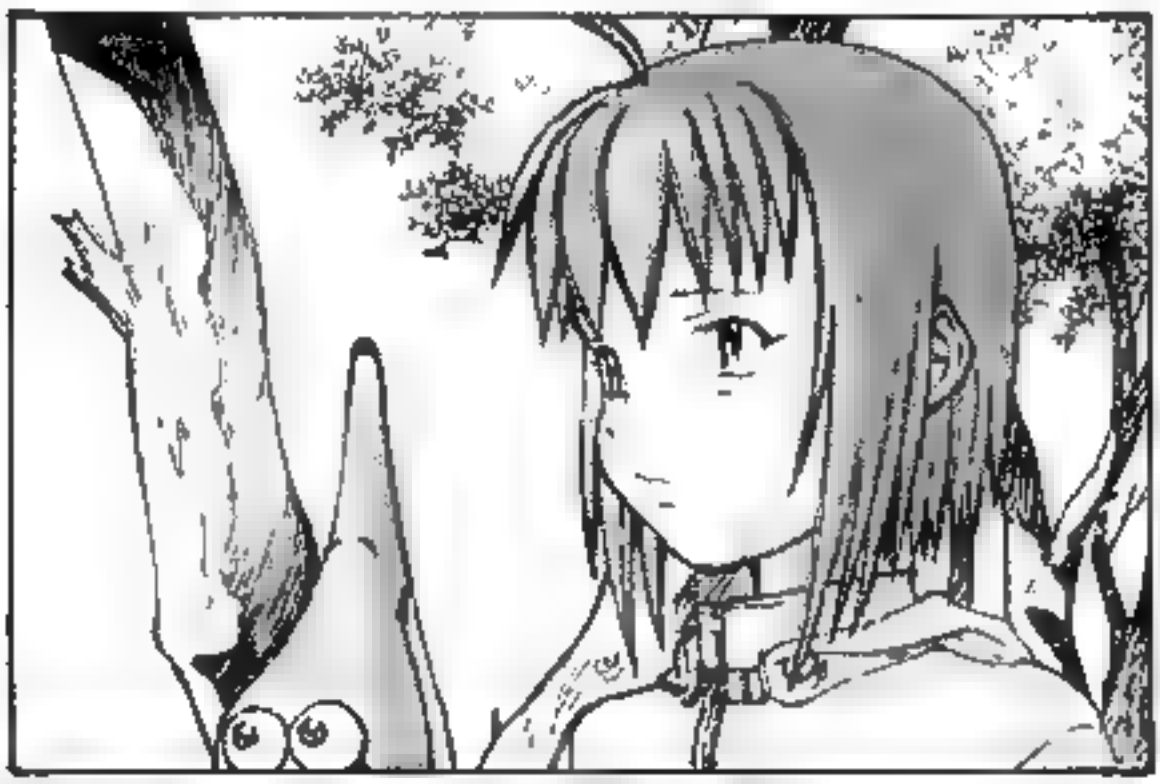
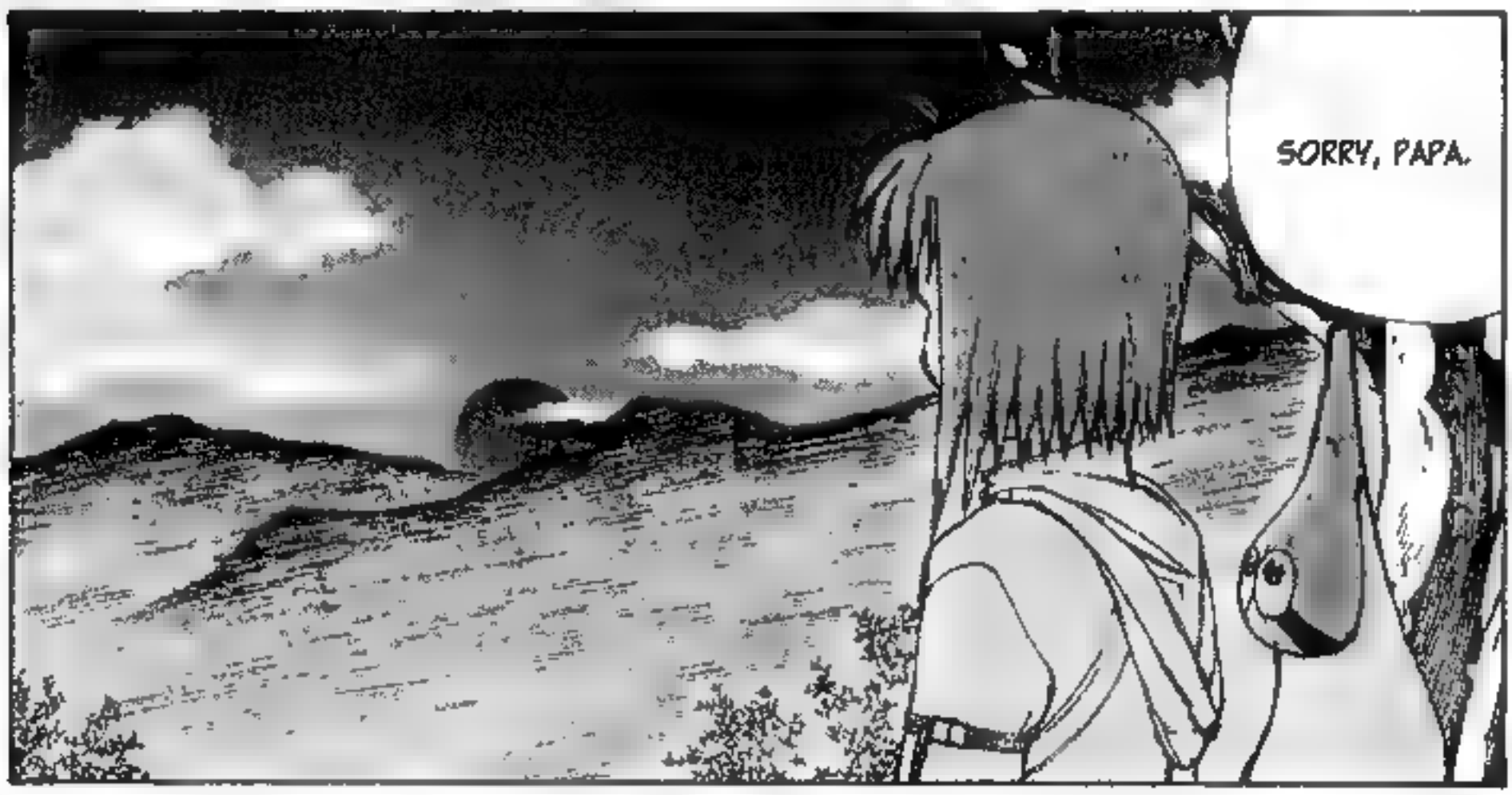





LET'S TAKE A SHORT BREAK.
AREN'T YOU TIRED, HOSHIMARU?



WE'RE SO FAR AWAY...
HOW LATE IS IT, I WONDER?


SORRY, PAPA.

IT'S NIGHT ALREADY!

WAAAH!

SORRY, PAPA!

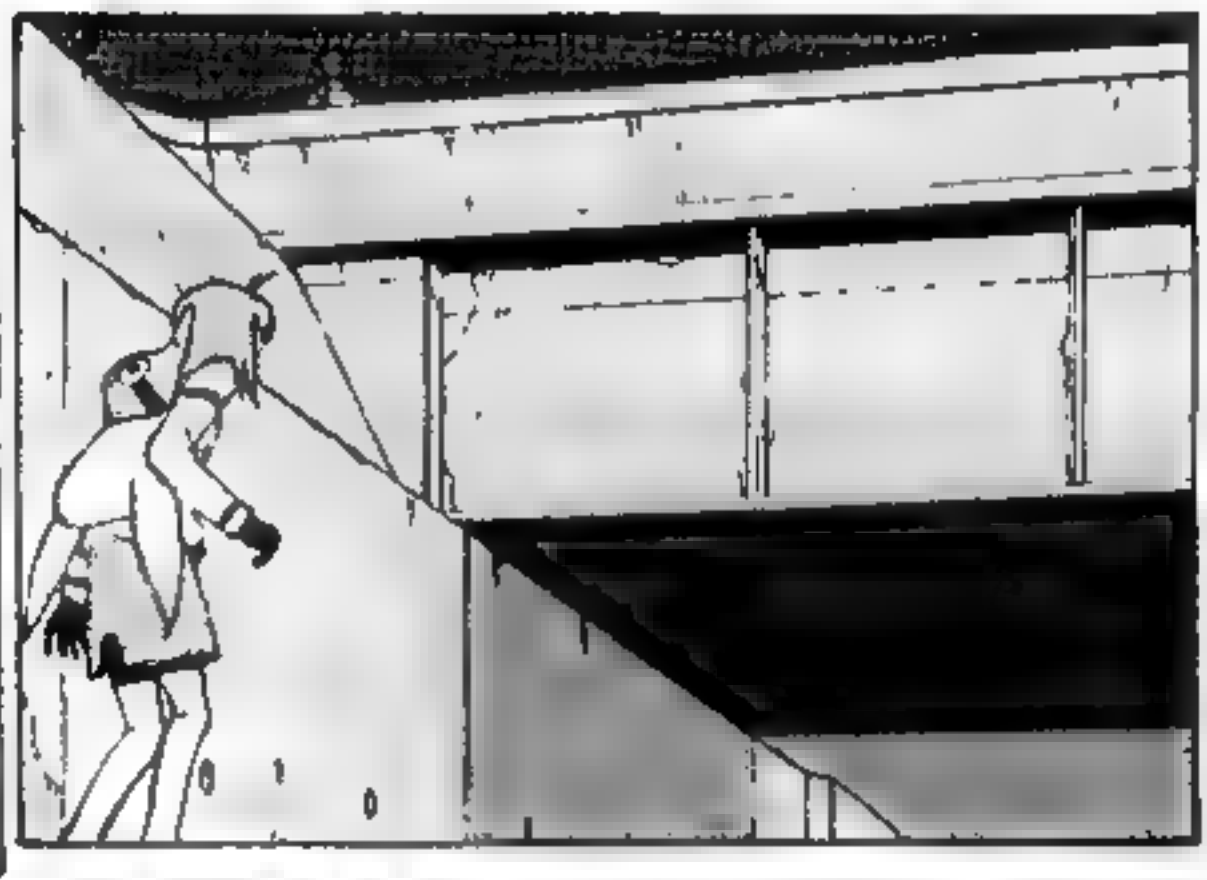
SORRY, PAPA!

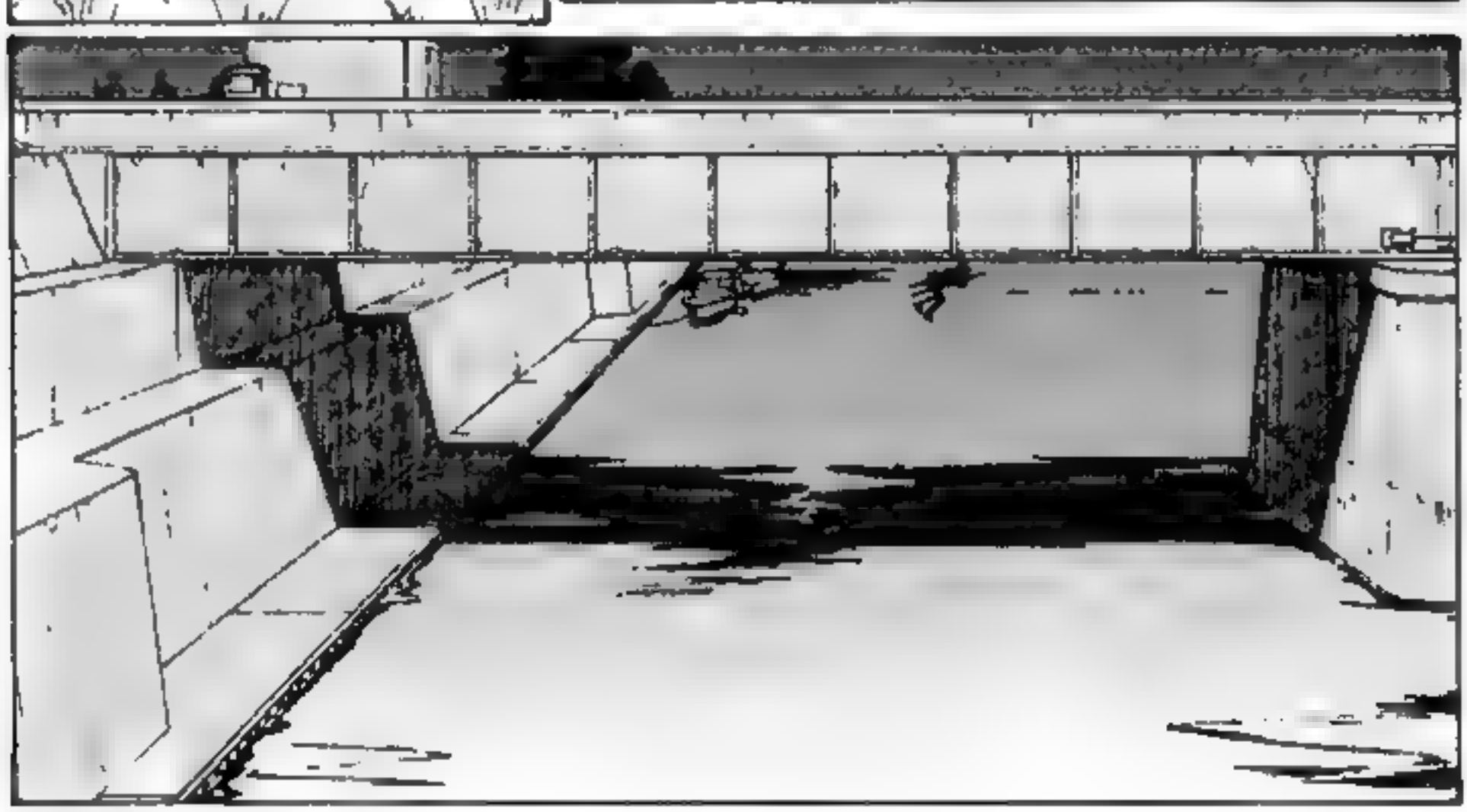
WHAT _?!

SEALED?

AN AMERICAN PLANE CRASHED HERE. THEY'VE SEALED OFF THE AREA.

YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?





BETTER NOT GO THAT WAY.

...ANOTHER WAY HOME.

WE'D BETTER TAKE...

NO.

THE MOTION DETECTOR'S NOT SHOWING ANY SIGNAL.

FOUND SOME-THING YET?

WE HAVE LIMITED TIME.

GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

HE'S PROBABLY HIDING SOMEWHERE.

I'M MAKING THE SEARCH AREA SMALLER.

SEND THEM IN FOR IDENTIFICATION.

REACTION IN 553.

WHICH SQUAD IS IN THE AREA?

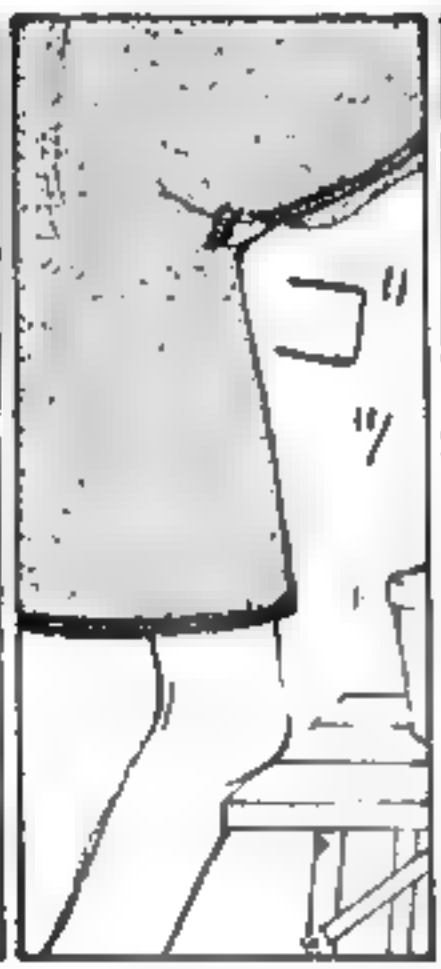
ON TOP OF US PERHAPS?

THERE'S SOMETHING NEARBY.

WHAT IS IT?

LET'S HAVE A LOOK!

SOME-
ONE'S
COMING!

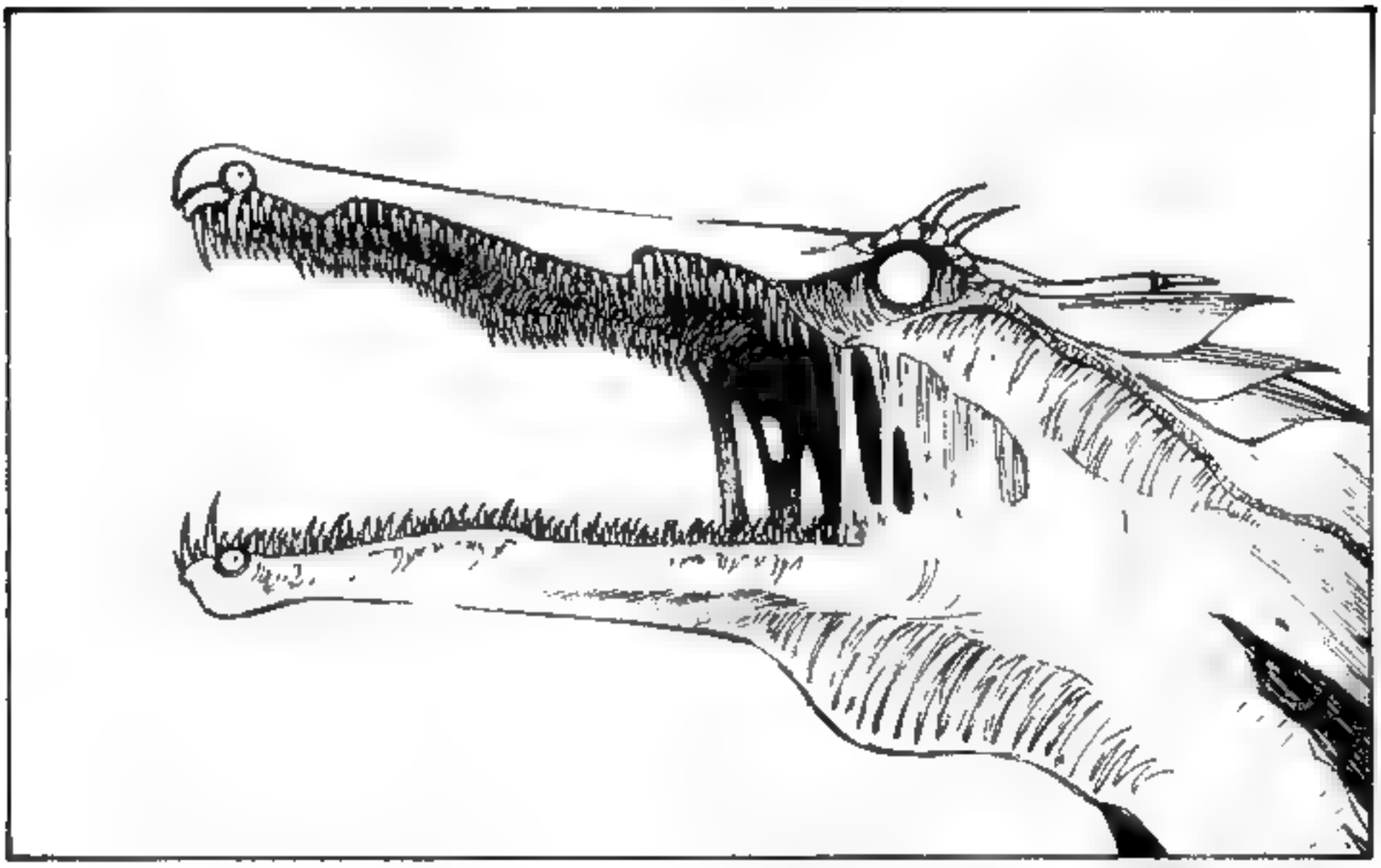


LET'S
GET OUT
OF HERE!

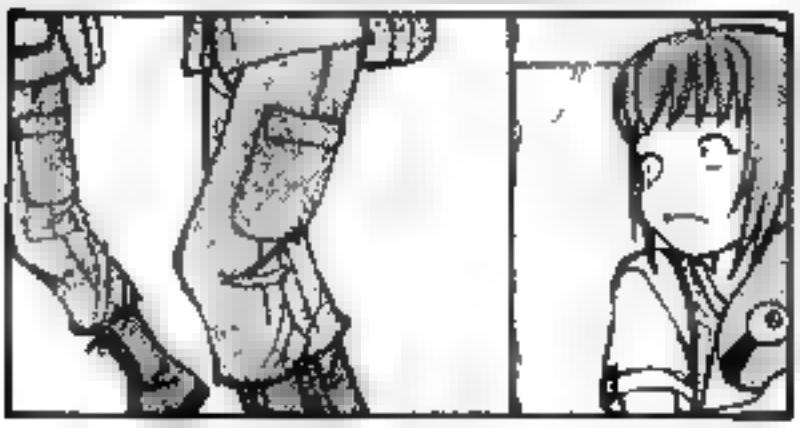
SHHH!

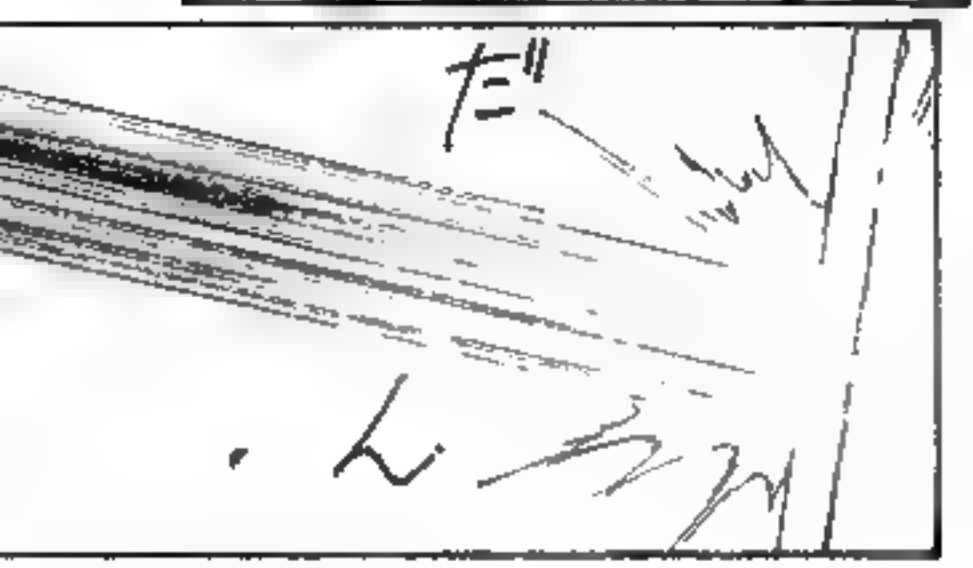
HAH...

HOSHIMA...



TARGET OBJECT SIGHTED!





AFTER IT!

...WHAT I FELT AS A "TUMULT"...

THAT'S IT...

A DRAGON CHILD...

LET'S FLY!!

AFTER IT, HOSHIMARU!

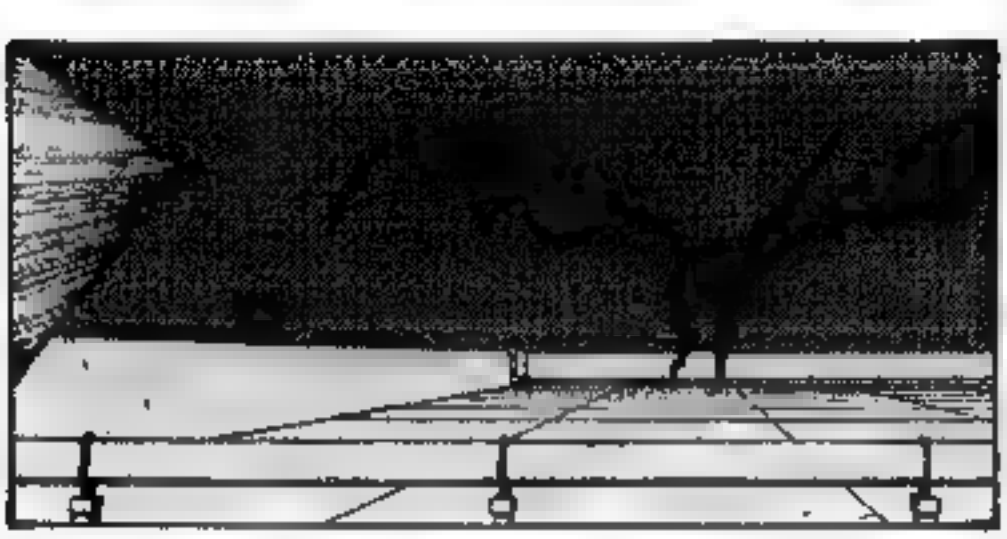
WAIT!

OUCH!

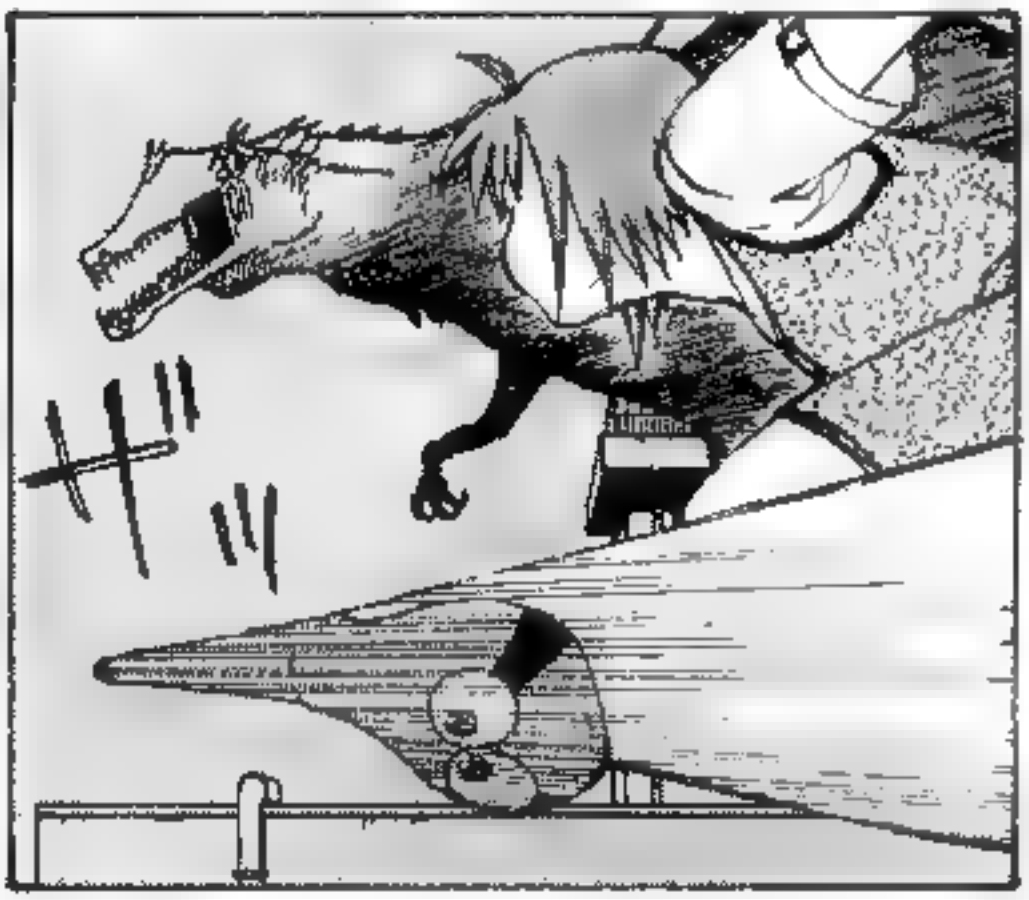
AH...

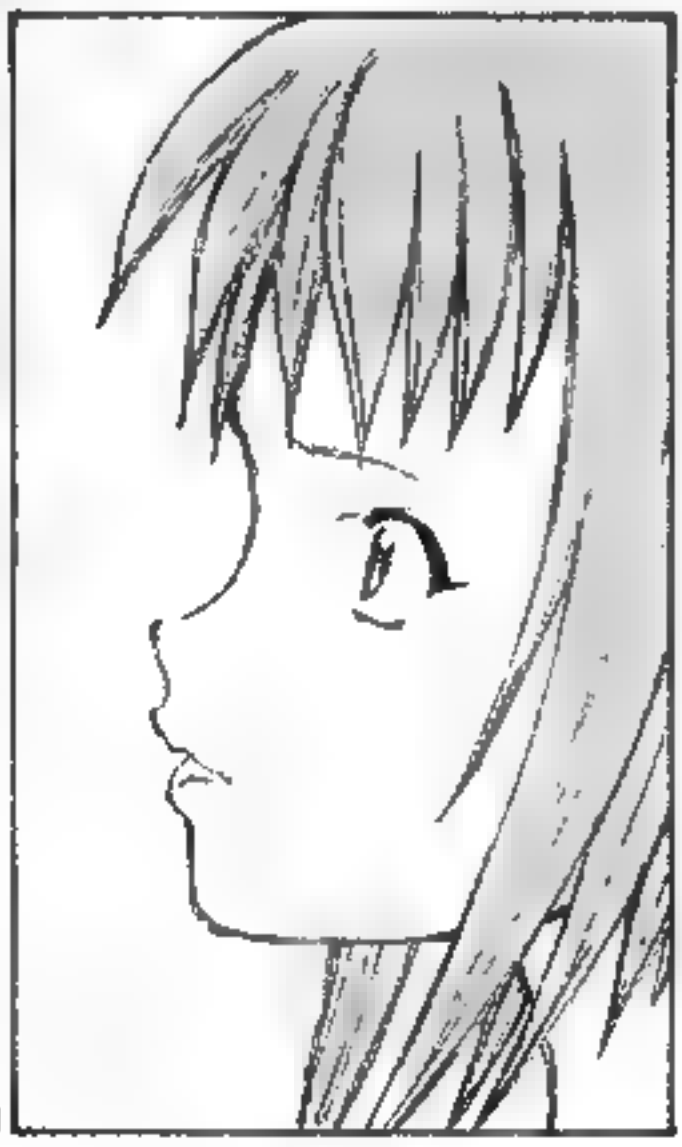
YOU!

HEY!



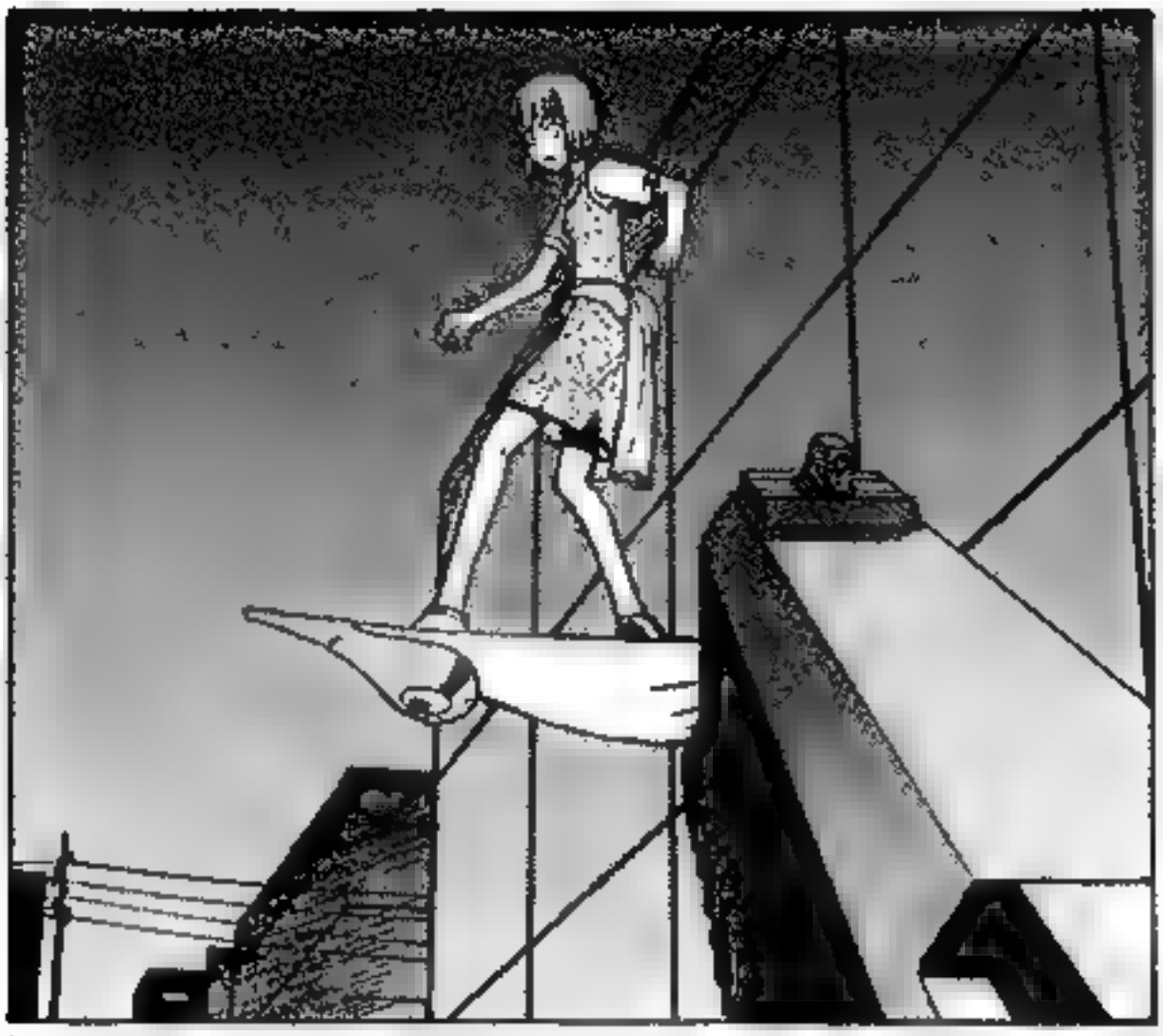
FORWARD, HOSHIMARU!





WAH!

ば"



DON'T MOVE!

AH!

GET AWAY FROM YOUR PARTNER!

IF YOU DON'T OBEY I'LL SHOOT YOU!

COME DOWN SLOWLY!

KEEP QUIET!

OWW...

WALK!

COME, WE'RE GOING.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DON'T THINK I'LL HESITATE TO SHOOT A KID.
IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE I'LL SHOOT YOU.

NO!

STILL SO YOUNG AND ALREADY AN AGENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT?

THE CHILD CALLED ME.

THE DRAGON CHILD...

NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.

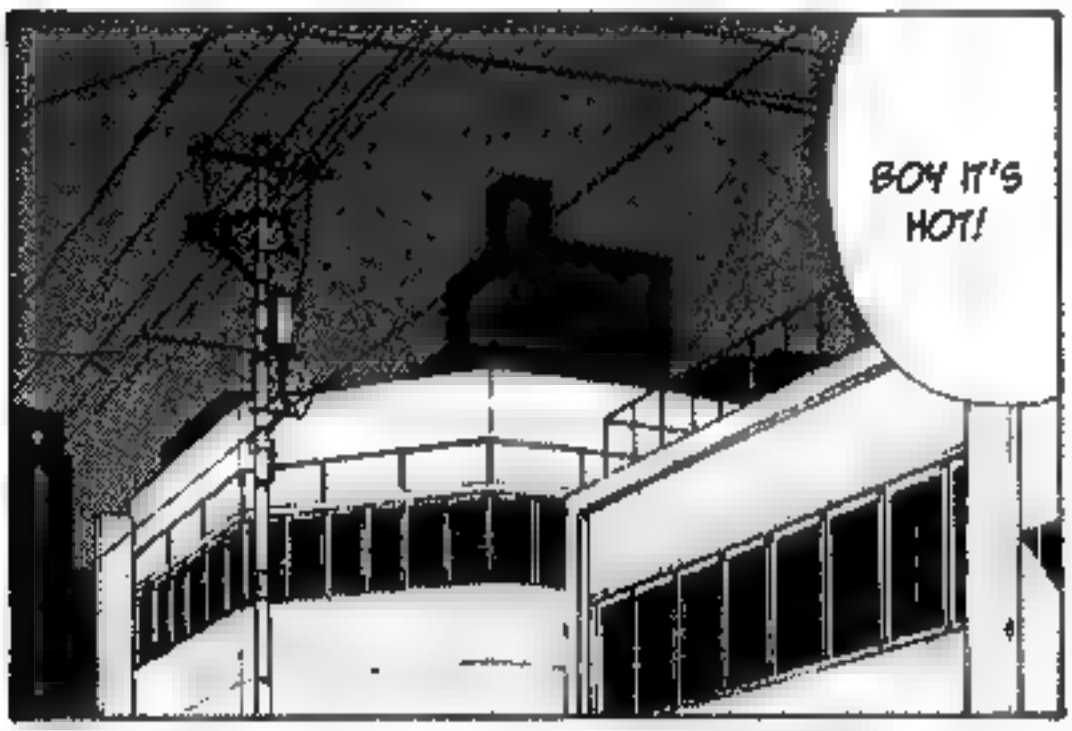
CALLED?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE CHILD IS NOW?

DID IT REALLY CALL HER?

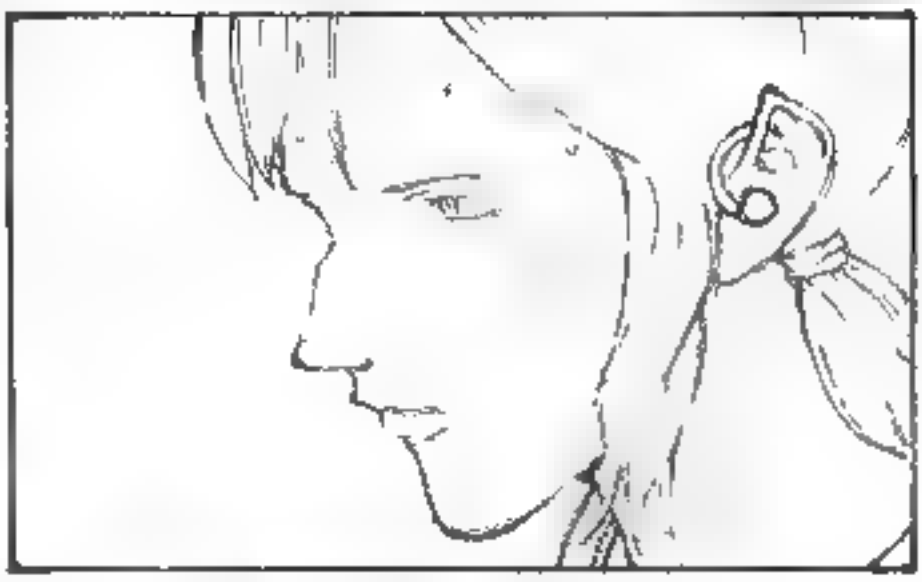
MAYBE THEY CAN COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

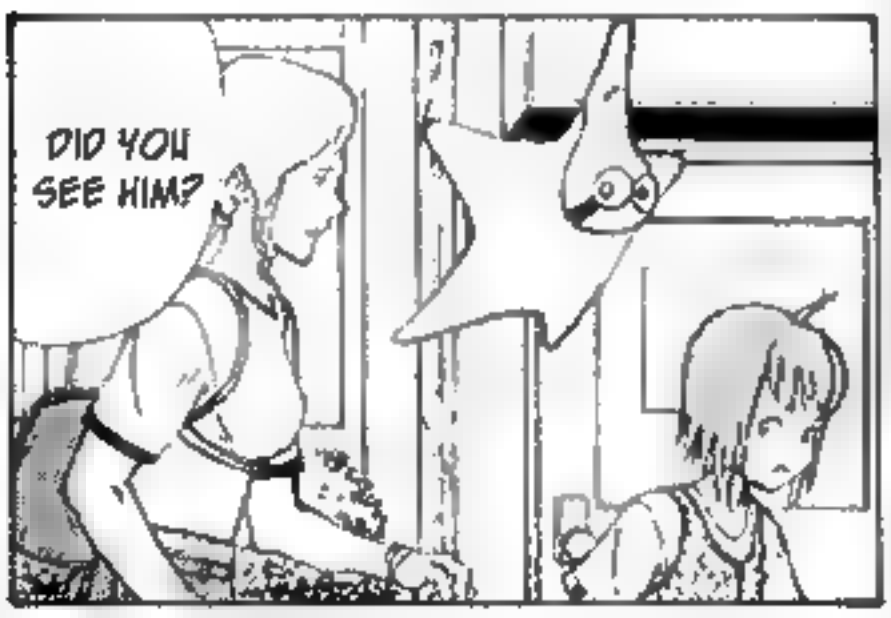
BRING ME THERE.

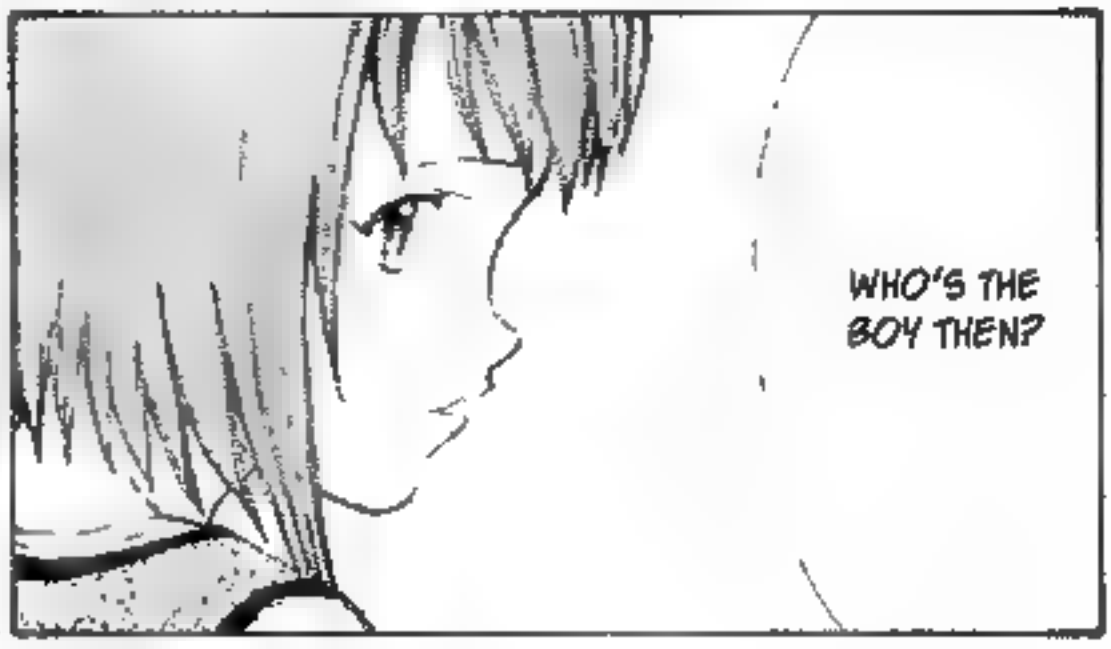

BOY IT'S HOT!

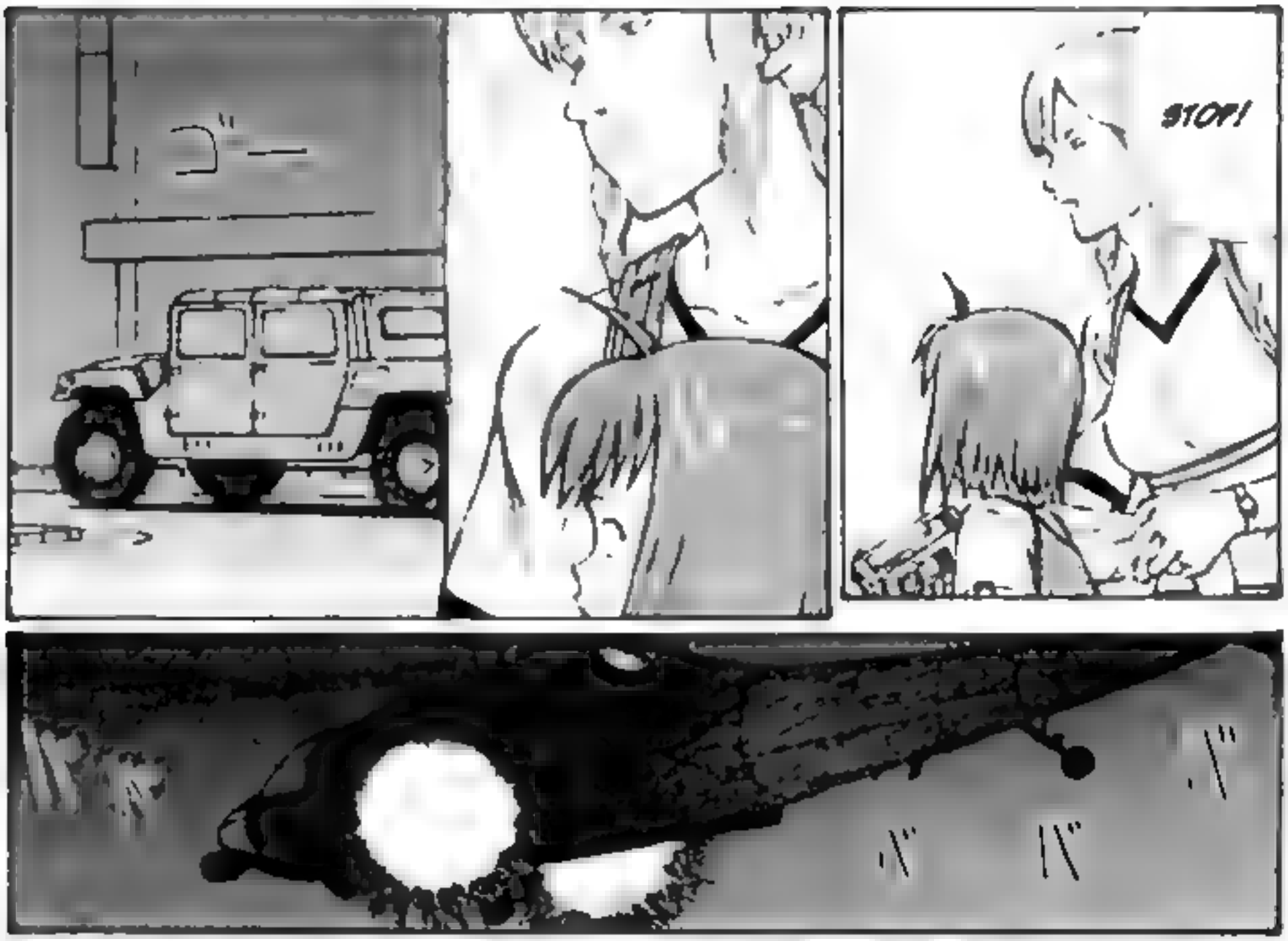
HERE!

FIND THE GUY!
NO, IT'S OKAY.
TAKE A BREAK?



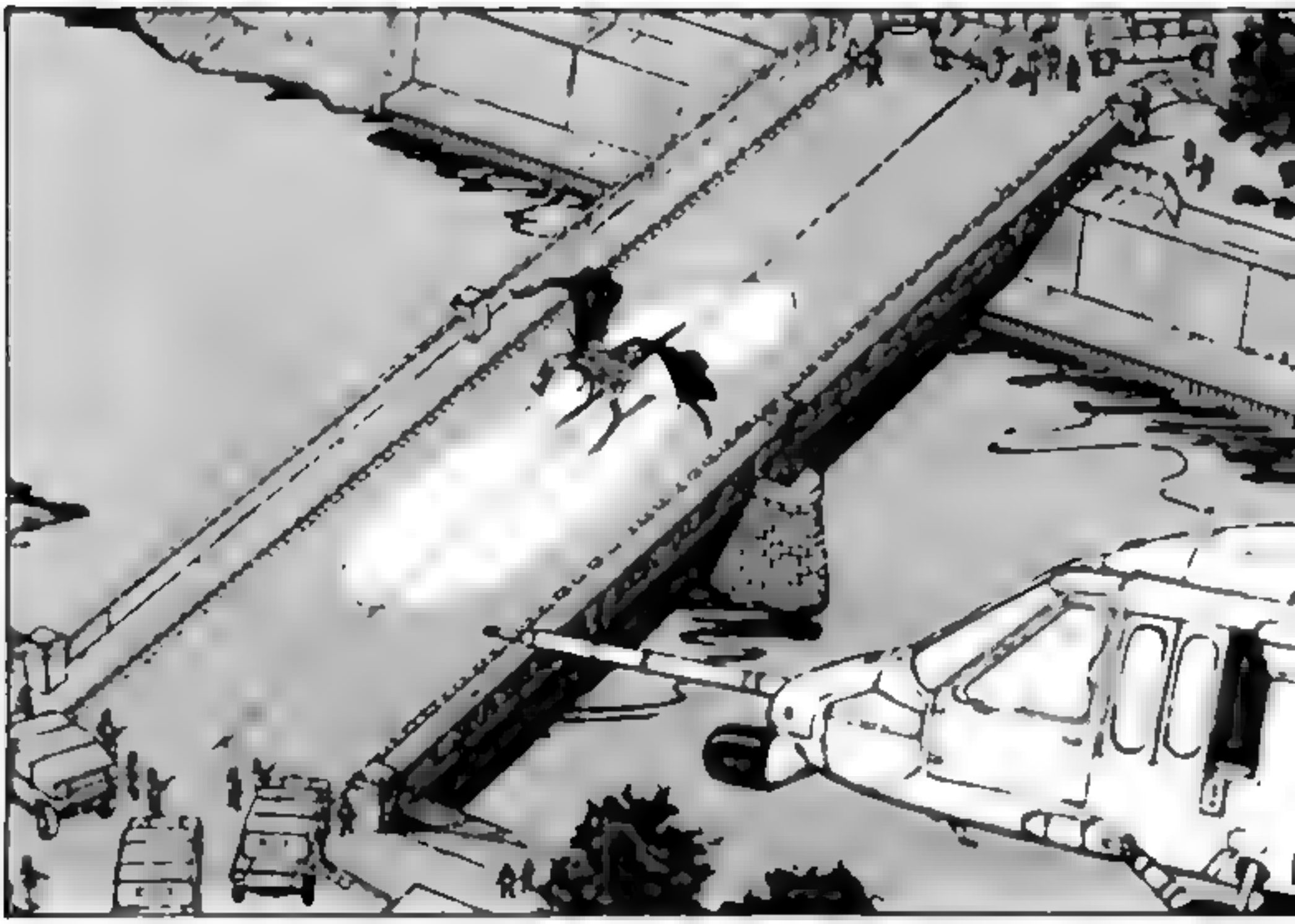

DID YOU SEE HIM?


WHO'S THE BOY THEN?


STOP!

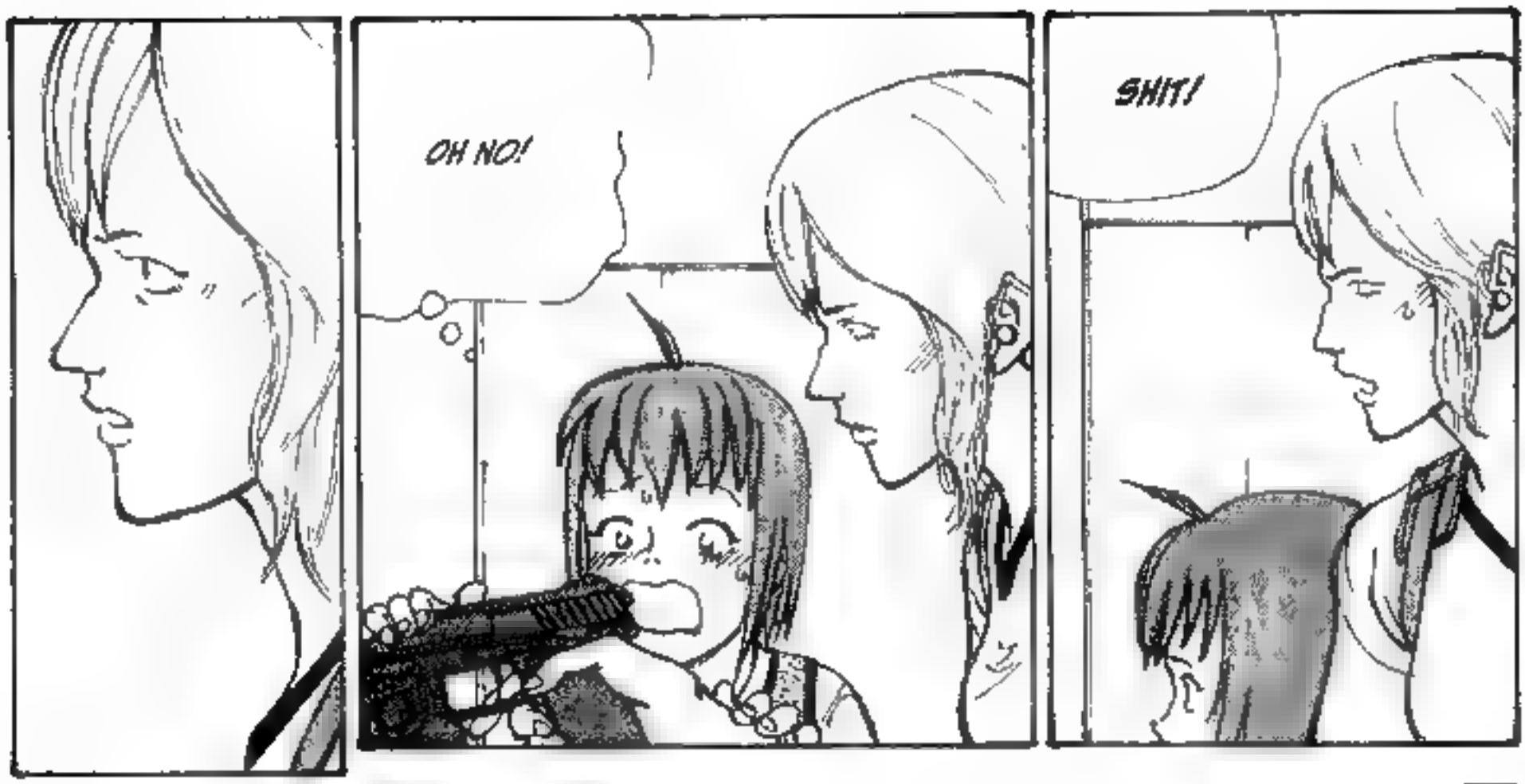
HURRY!

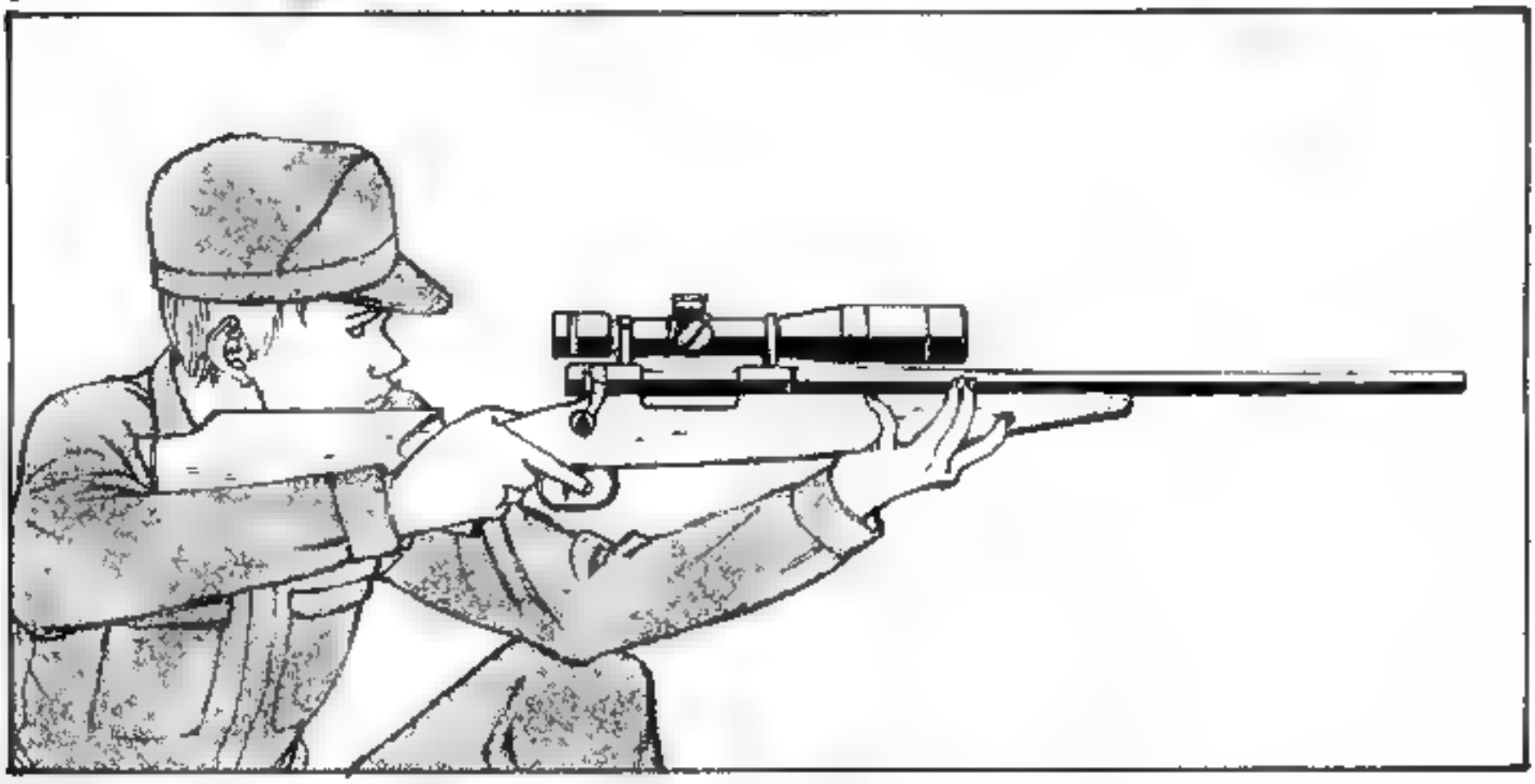
THE MILITARY
HAS FOUND HIM!

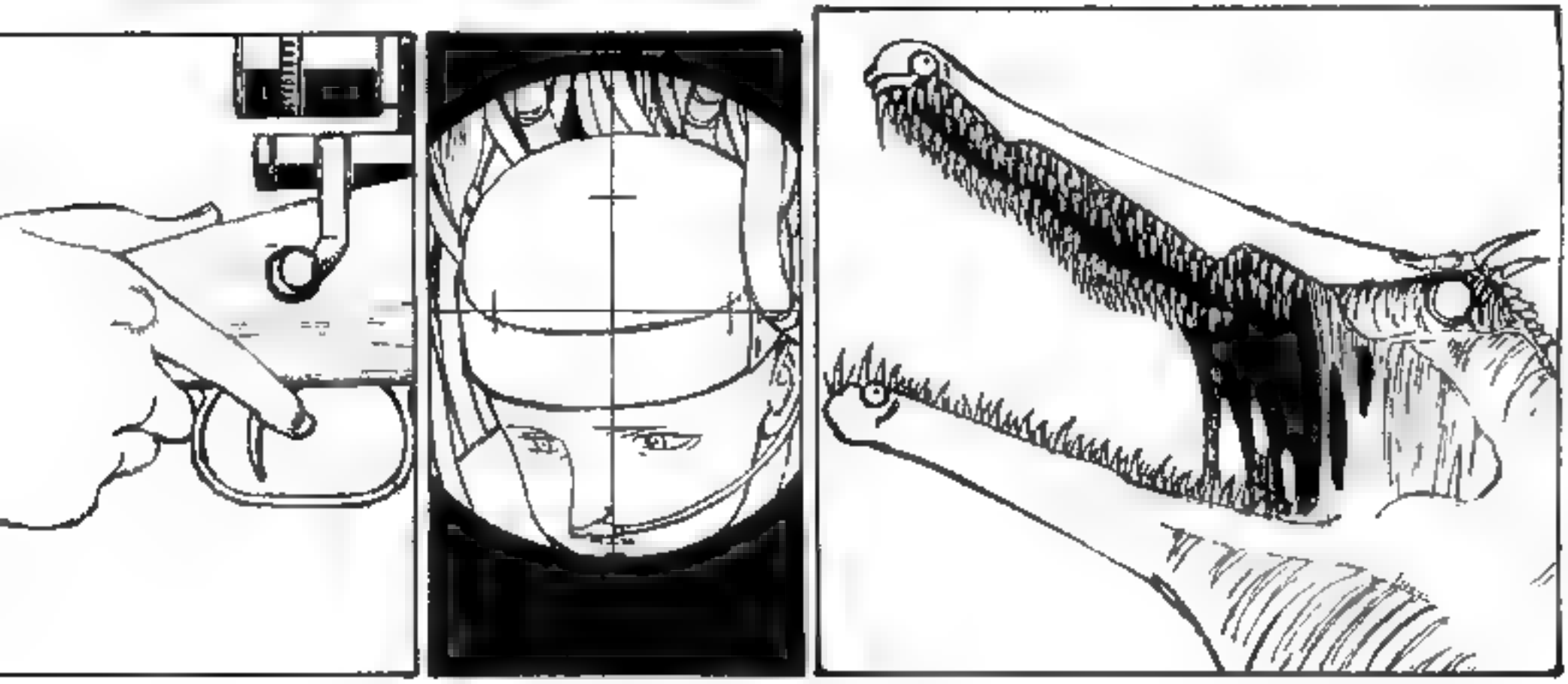


WE'VE SURROUNDED HIM.
TURN THE LIGHT OFF! DON'T AGGRAVATE HIM!

WHERE ARE THE SHARPSHOOTERS?

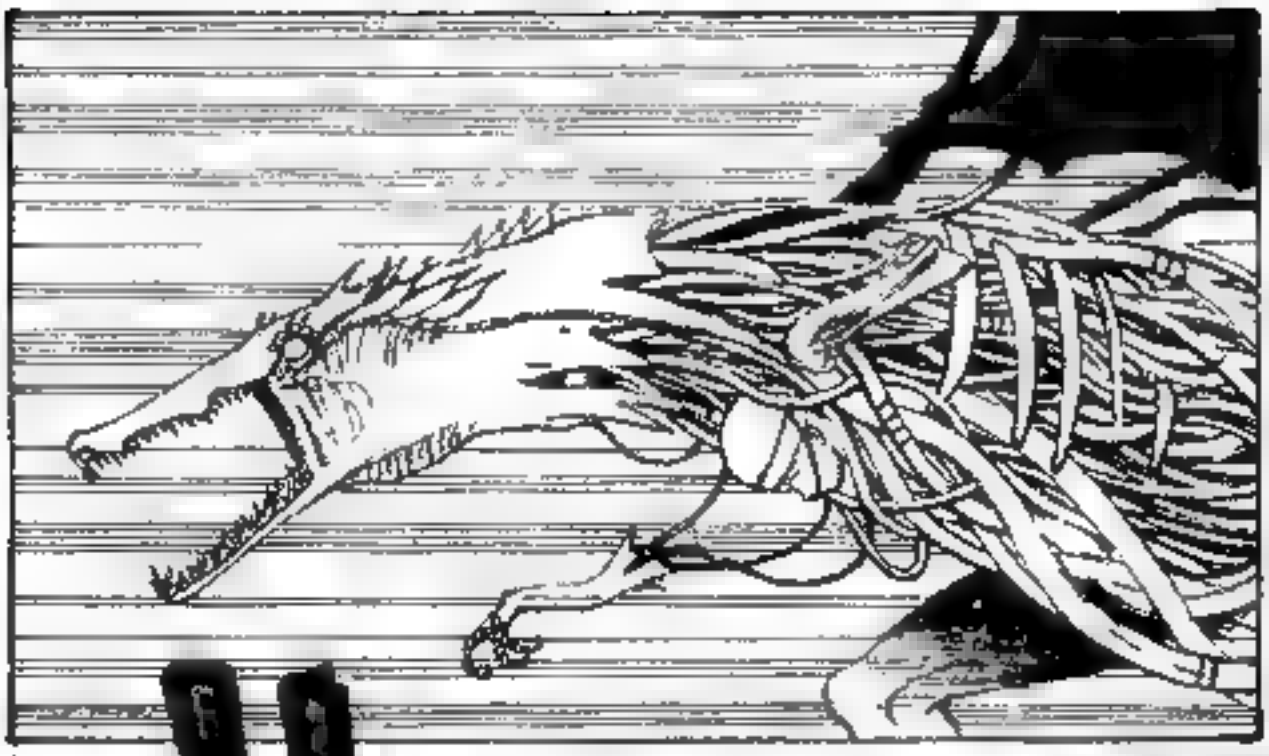

OH NO!
SHIT!

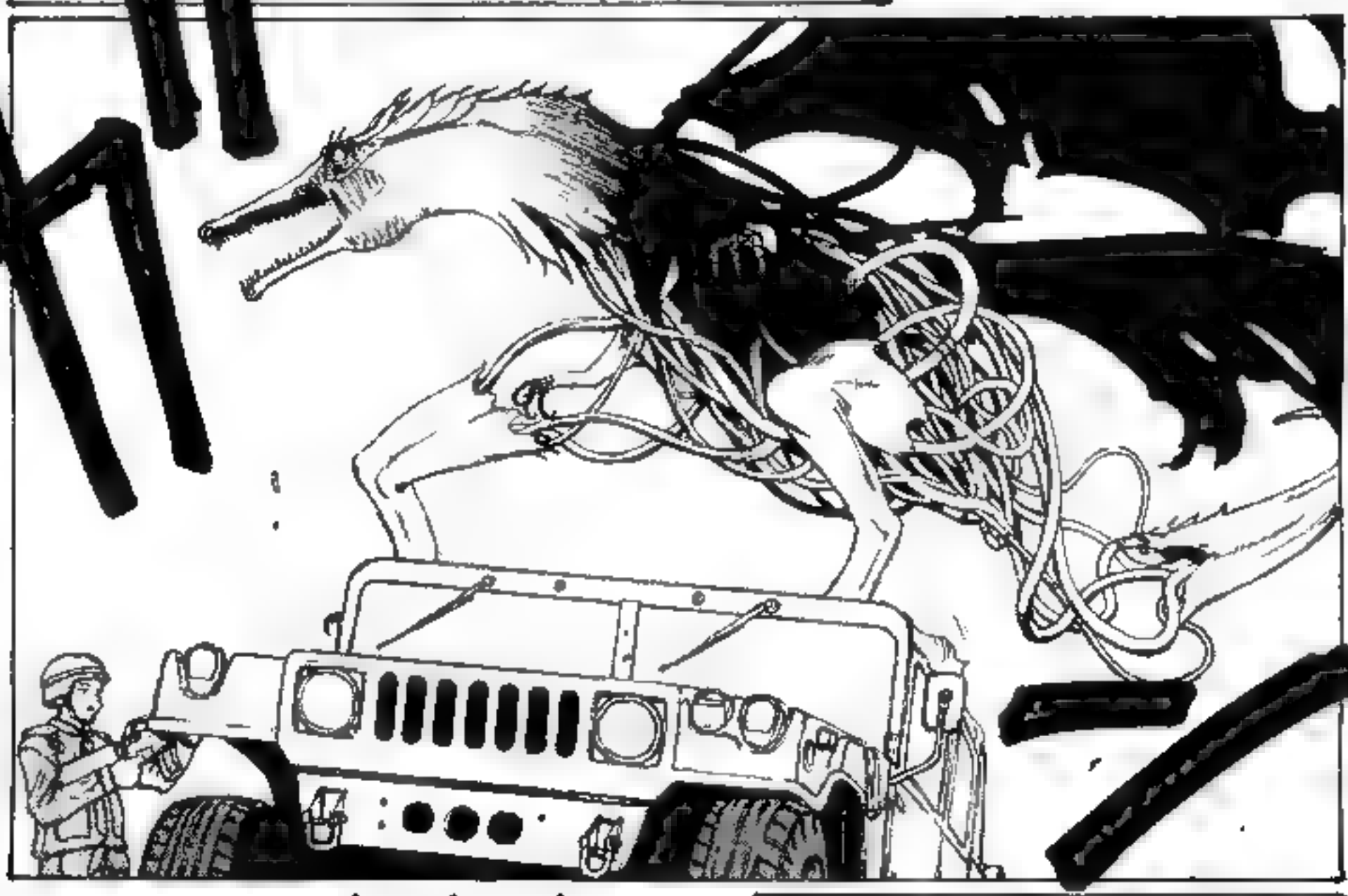




SECOND SHOT!

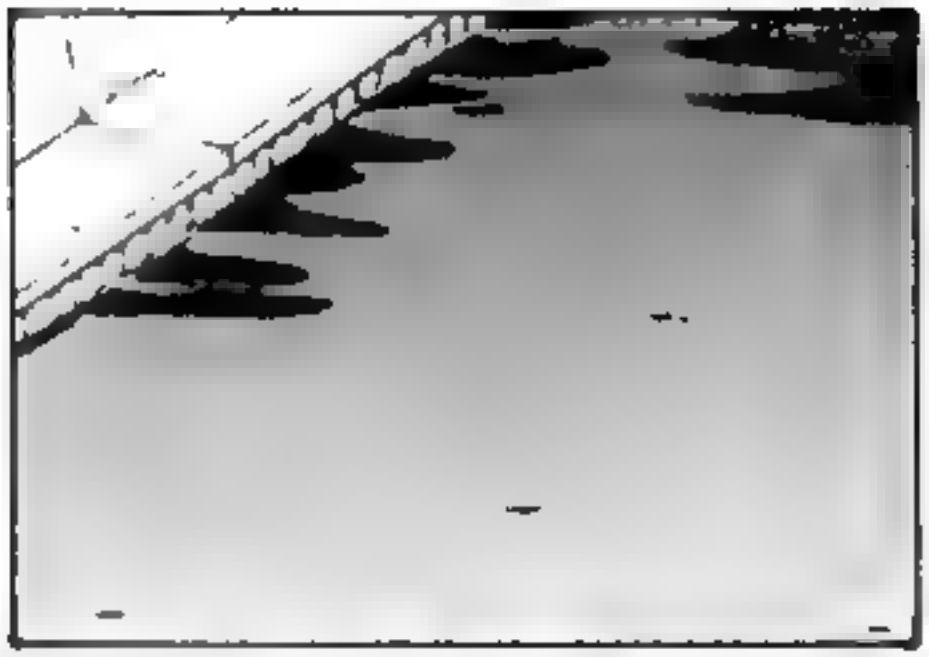
MISSED.





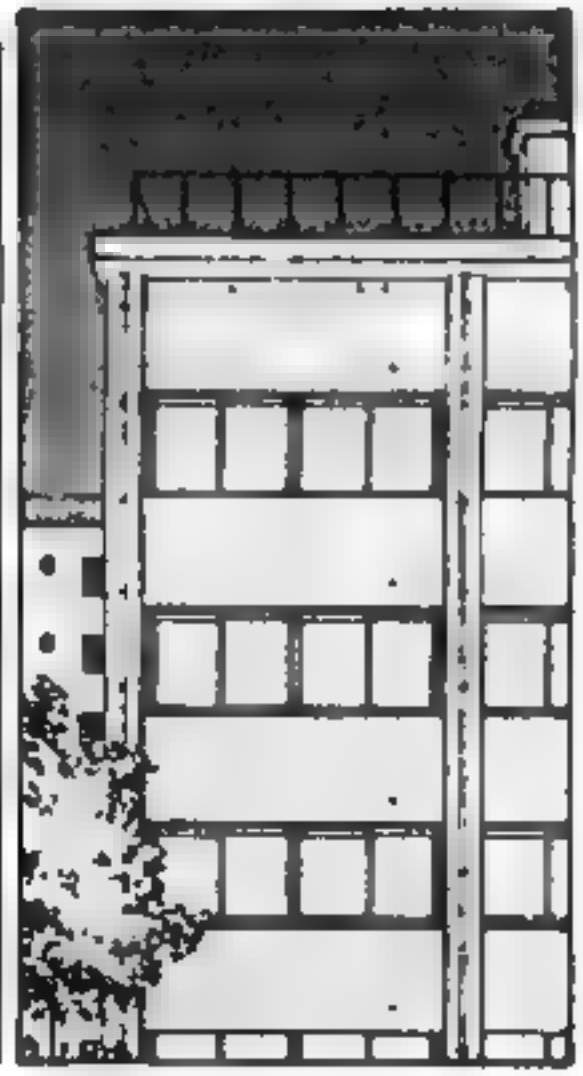
RETREAT!

AH...



HE REALLY
WENT INTO
THE WATER...

APPARENTLY
YOU WEREN'T
LYING.



BUT WHEN WE ARRIVED AT HIGASHI-IWAKUNI HE FLED.

...WE HAD TARASQUE UNDER CONTROL.

THE BOY...

HELP YOURSELF.

BUT I WANT THE TARASQUE UNINJURED.

THE STREETS CAN'T BE CLOSED INDEFINITELY JUST FOR A SHOW LIKE THIS...

APPARENTLY THE MILITARY ALWAYS WANTS TO SHOOT FIRST.

...I'LL LET YOU GO.

IF WE CAN GET TO HIM BEFORE THE MILITARY...

YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW, DON'T YOU?

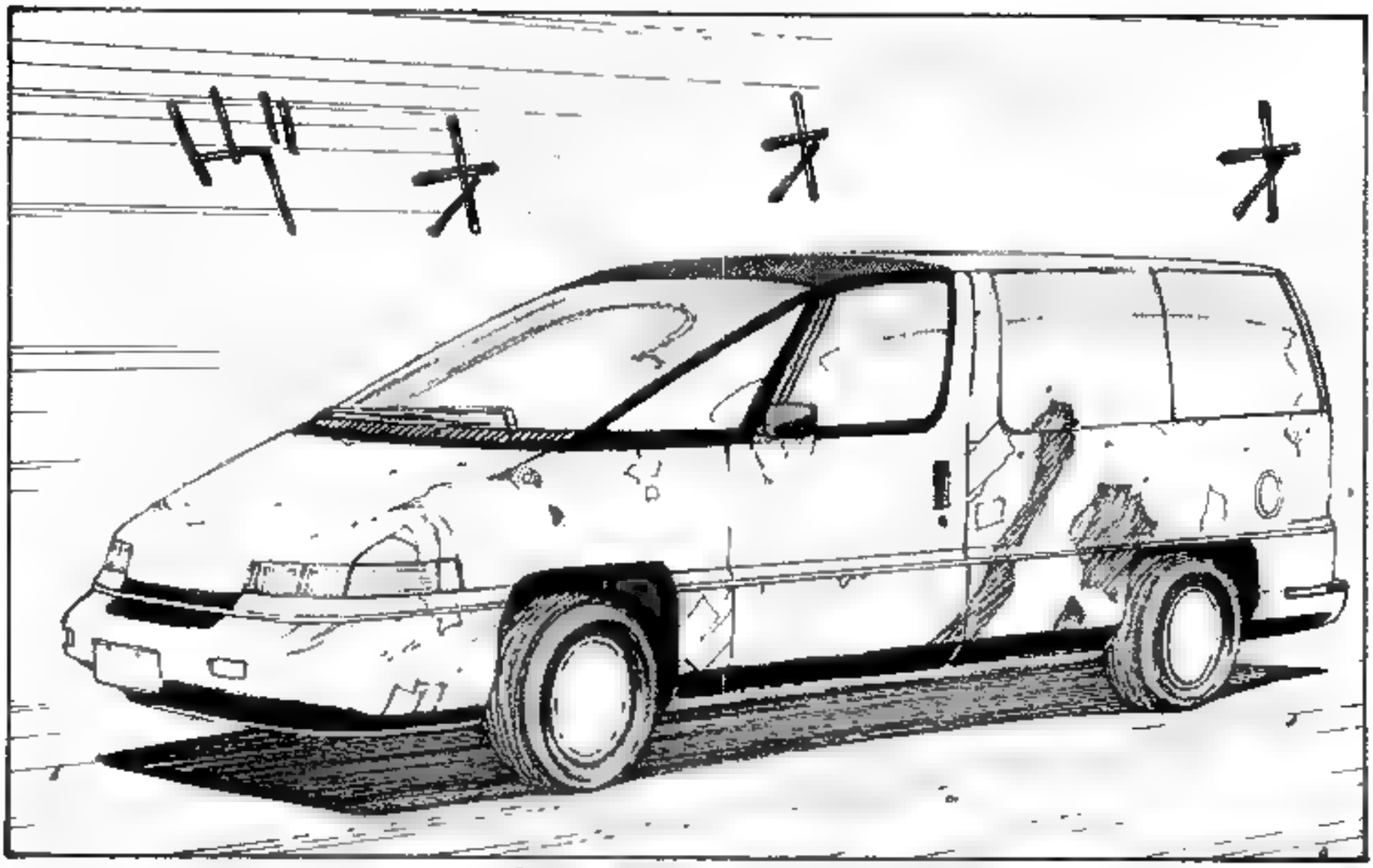
I CAN RUN AWAY ANY TIME.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF THEM.

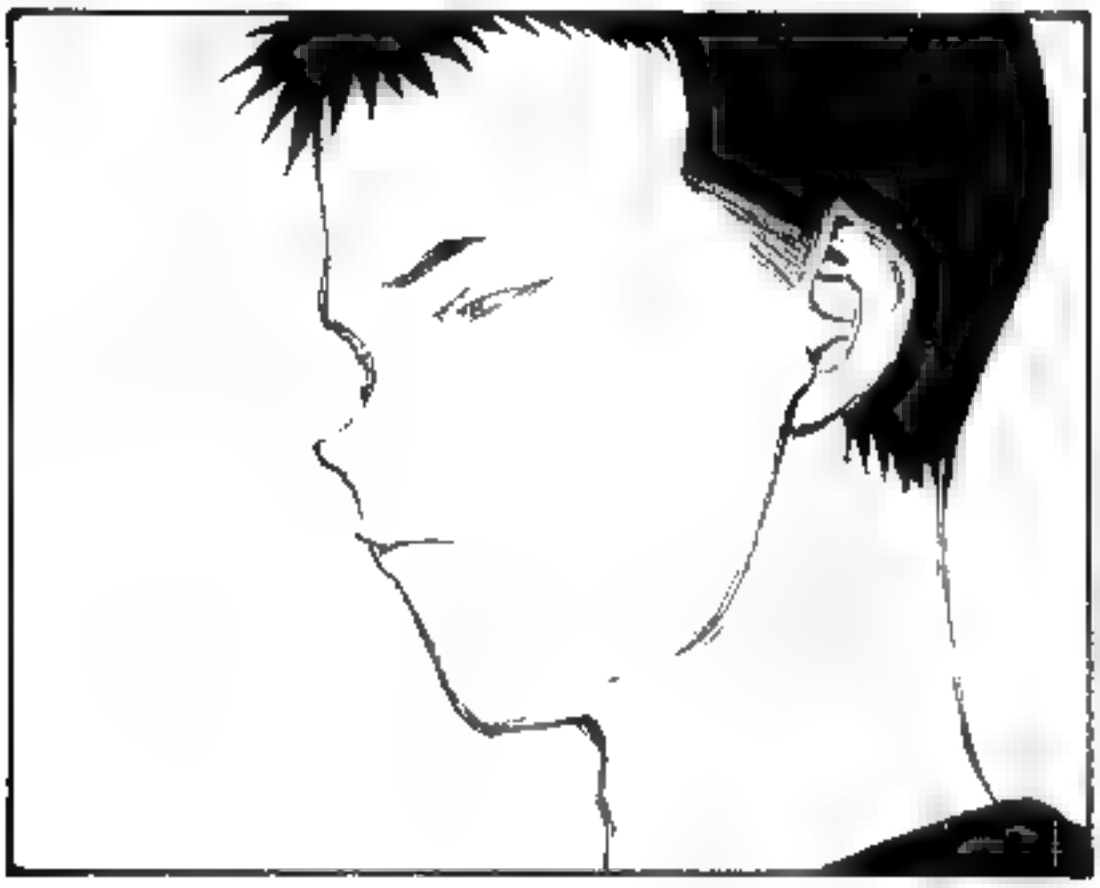
BUT...

...I'LL HELP YOU.

SOMEHOW, I'M ALSO INTERESTED IN HIM!



SO...



YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!
NORIO!

REALLY?

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY...

...FOR NOW.

AND?

NO.

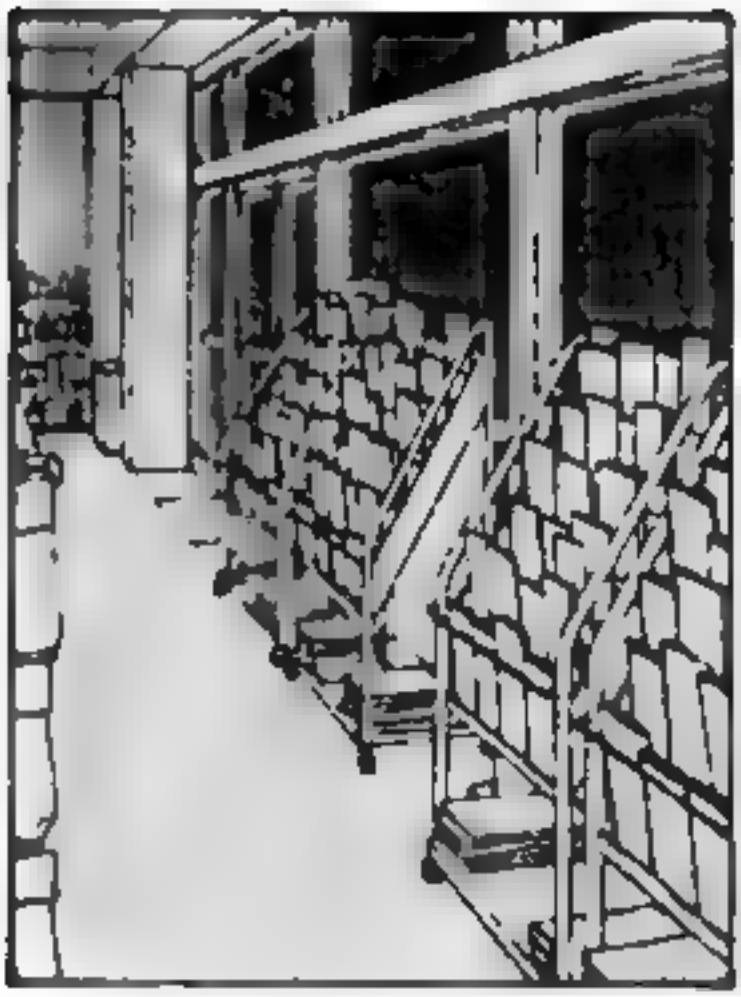
COULD HE HAVE GONE DOWN THE RIVER TOWARDS THE SEA?

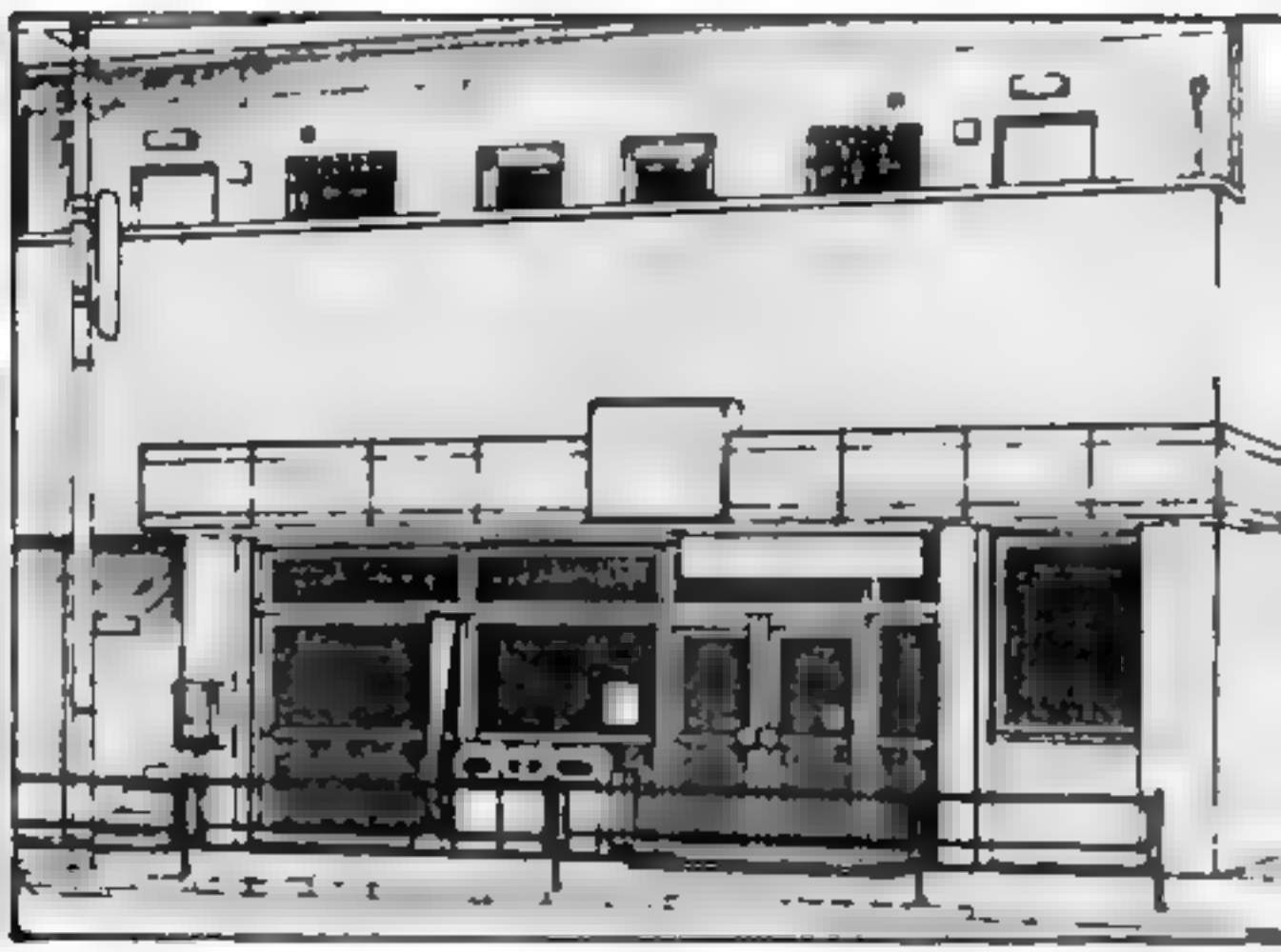
WHY...

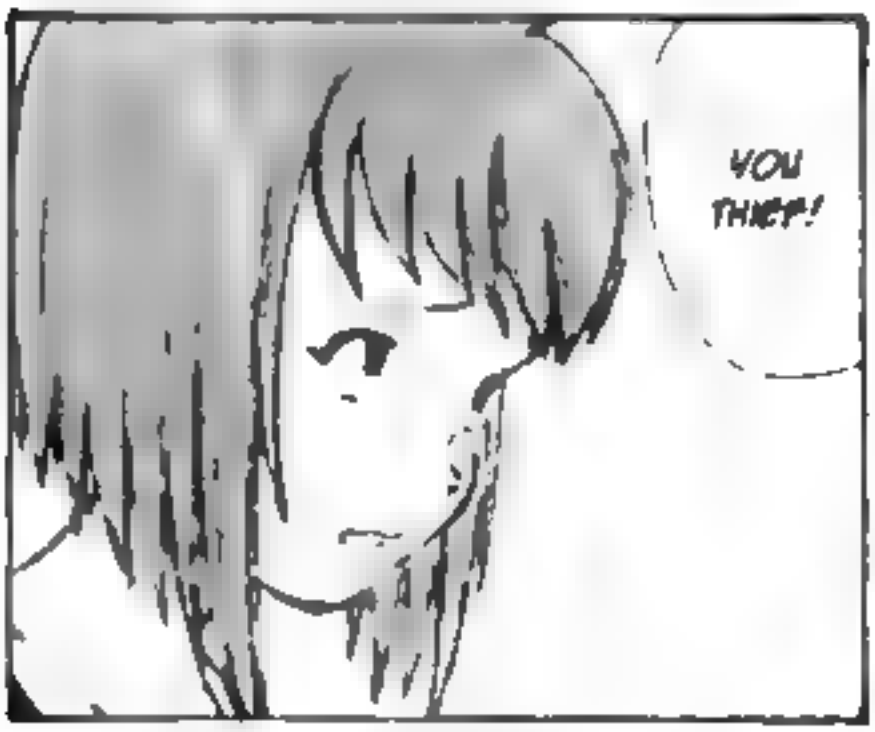
GRUMBLE

HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE THIS CITY.

SHOULD I GET SOMETHING FOR US TO EAT?






YOU THIEF!

JUST EAT!
NOBODY'S GOING TO BUY IT NOW ANYWAY!

HERE!


YOU DON'T EAT THAT?

そじ
そじ

はむ

NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD.

A CHILD WAS HIT.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED AROUND HERE THIS MORNING?

WHY?

IT'S OKAY.

THEN YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW THE CHILD IS DOING...

AH, IS THAT SO...

FOR ALMOST A YEAR NOW.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD IT?

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM TARASQUE.

TARASQUE?

AND THE OTHER ONE?

ITS APPEARANCE SEEMS TO MIRROR ITS CHARACTER.

A DRAGON MADE OF PAPIER MACHE.

PAPIER MACHE.

THAT'S ITS CHARACTER?

EVERYONE IS IMPRESSED BY STRENGTH, RIGHT?

SPAGHETTI SYNDROME ?

OTHER THAN THAT IT ALSO SUFFERS FROM SPAGHETTI SYNDROME.

BUT SADLY IT'S MADE OUT OF PAPIER MACHE.

WE SEARCH FOR TARASQUE.

LET'S GO THEN.

HMM? YES.

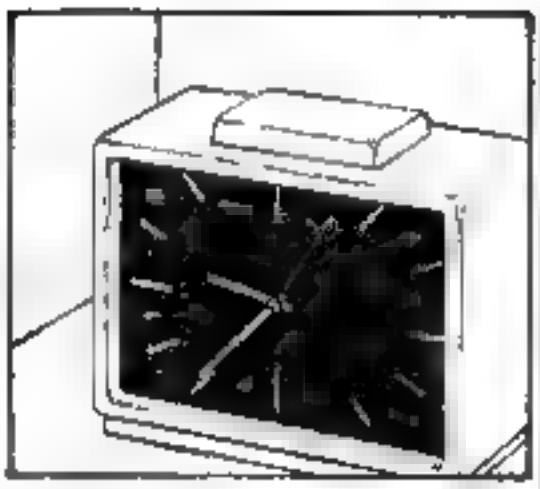
HAVE YOU EATEN ENOUGH?

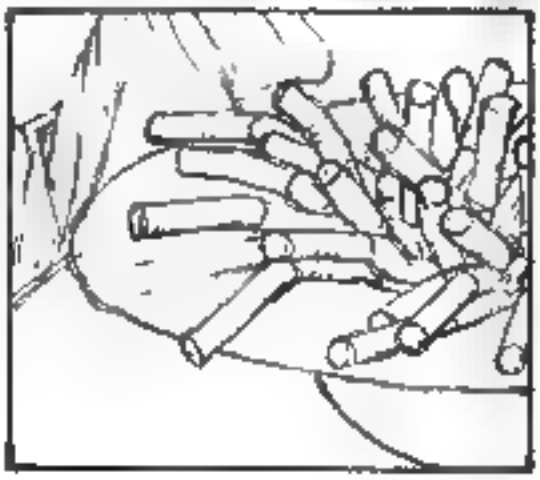
DID YOU GIVE IT A NAME?

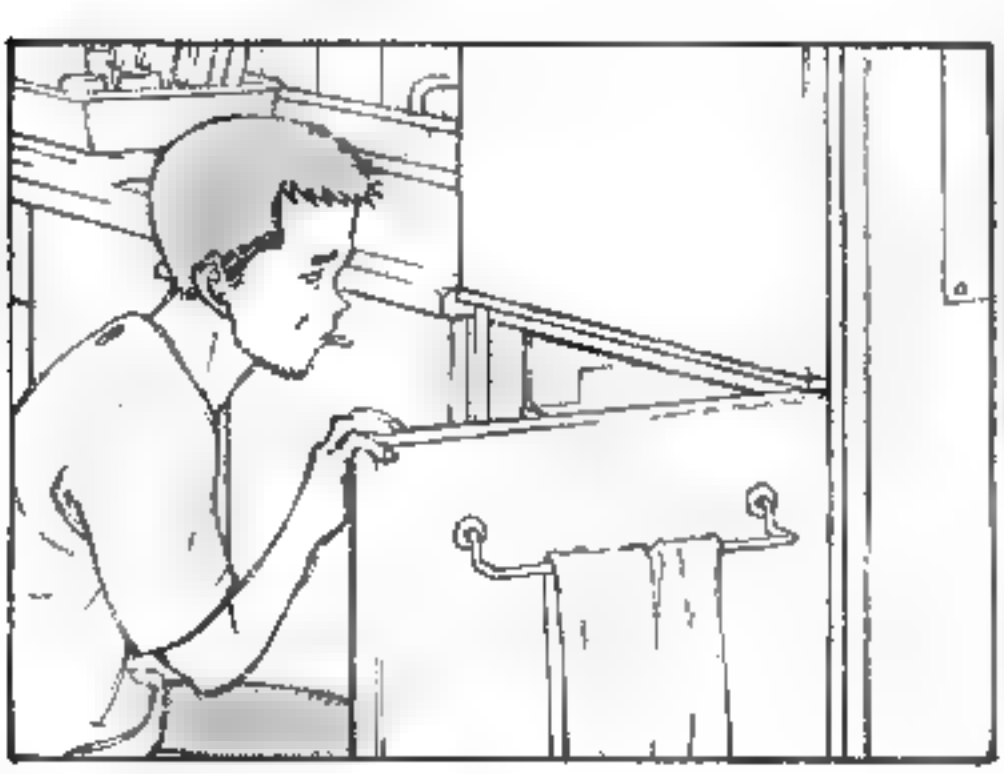
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

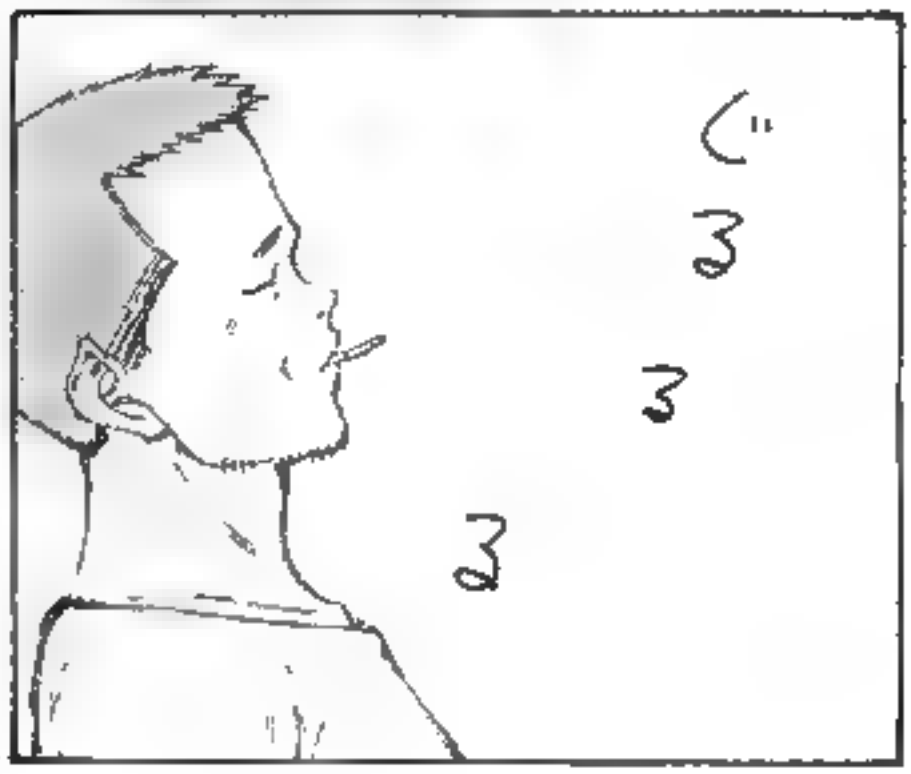
DOOR
YOUR PARENTS DID A GOOD JOB...

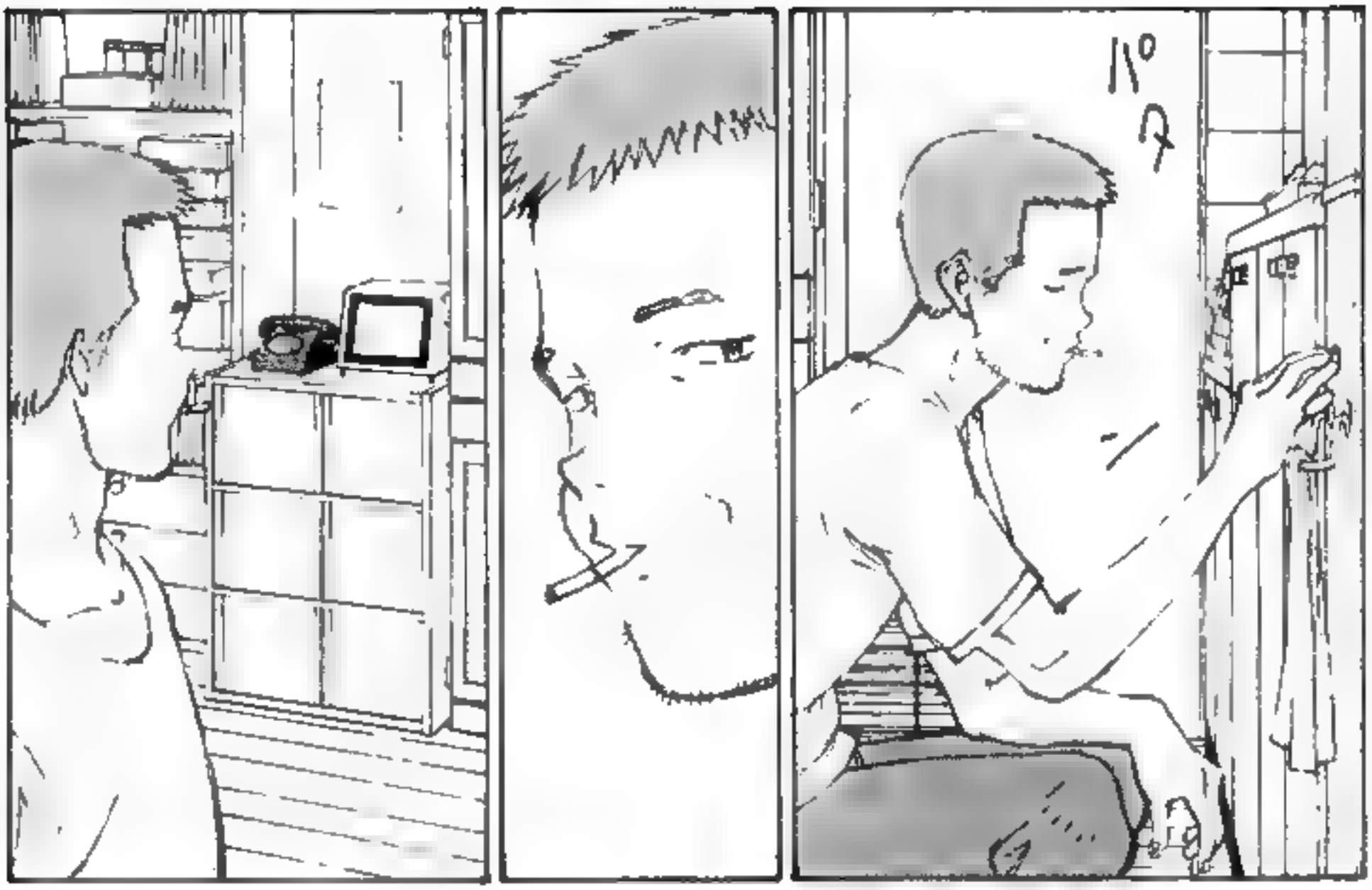
LET'S GO!

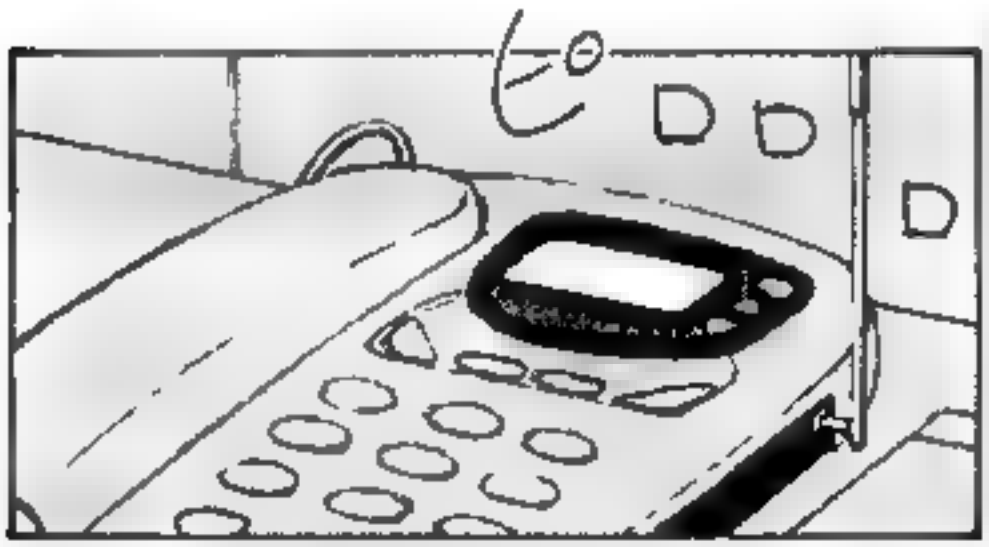











...WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE ...
THIS IS THE ANSWERING MACHINE FOR THE TAMAI FAMILY. IF YOU...

AH, KOGA-KUN...

...AT TSURUMARU-KUN'S PLACE?

EH...

TAMAI HERE.

YES...?

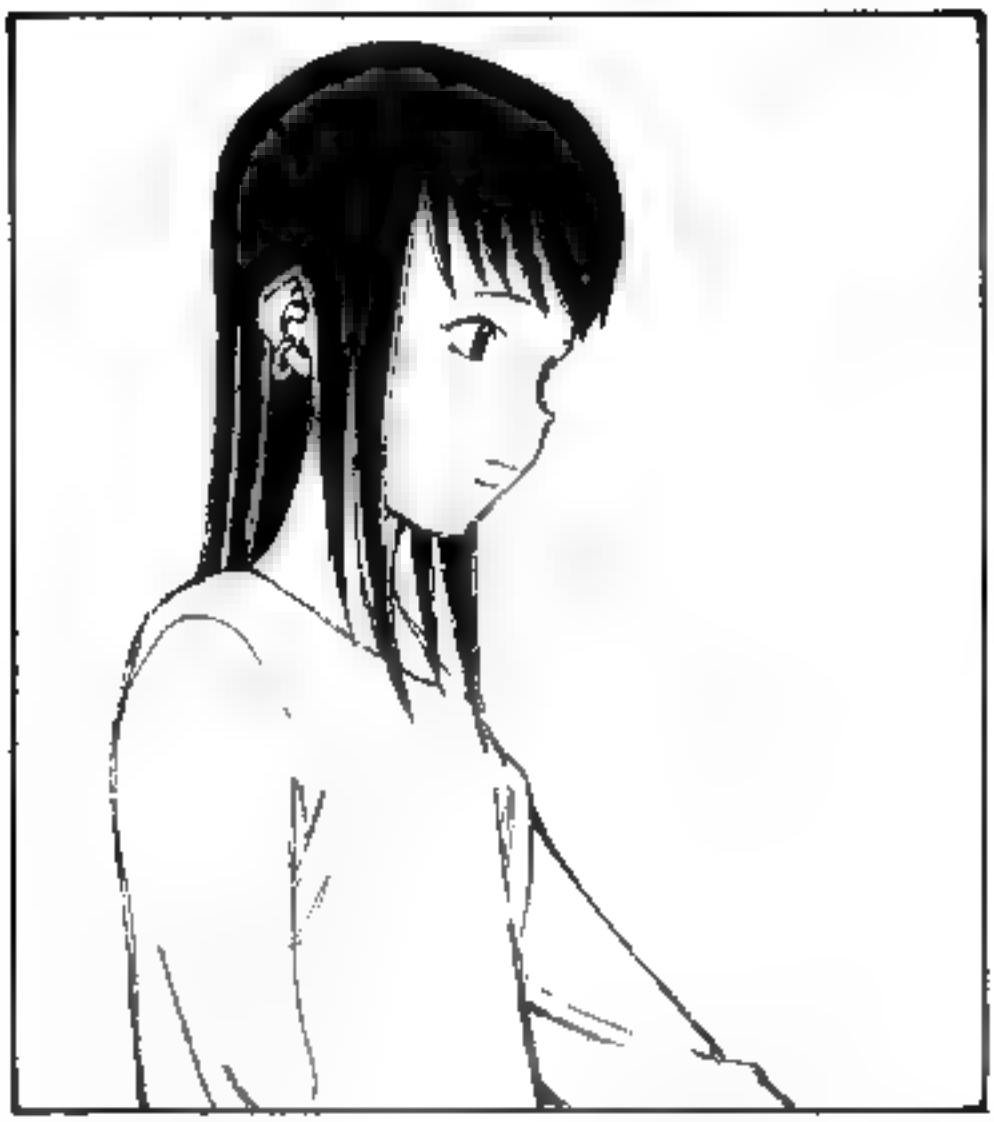
YES.

YES.

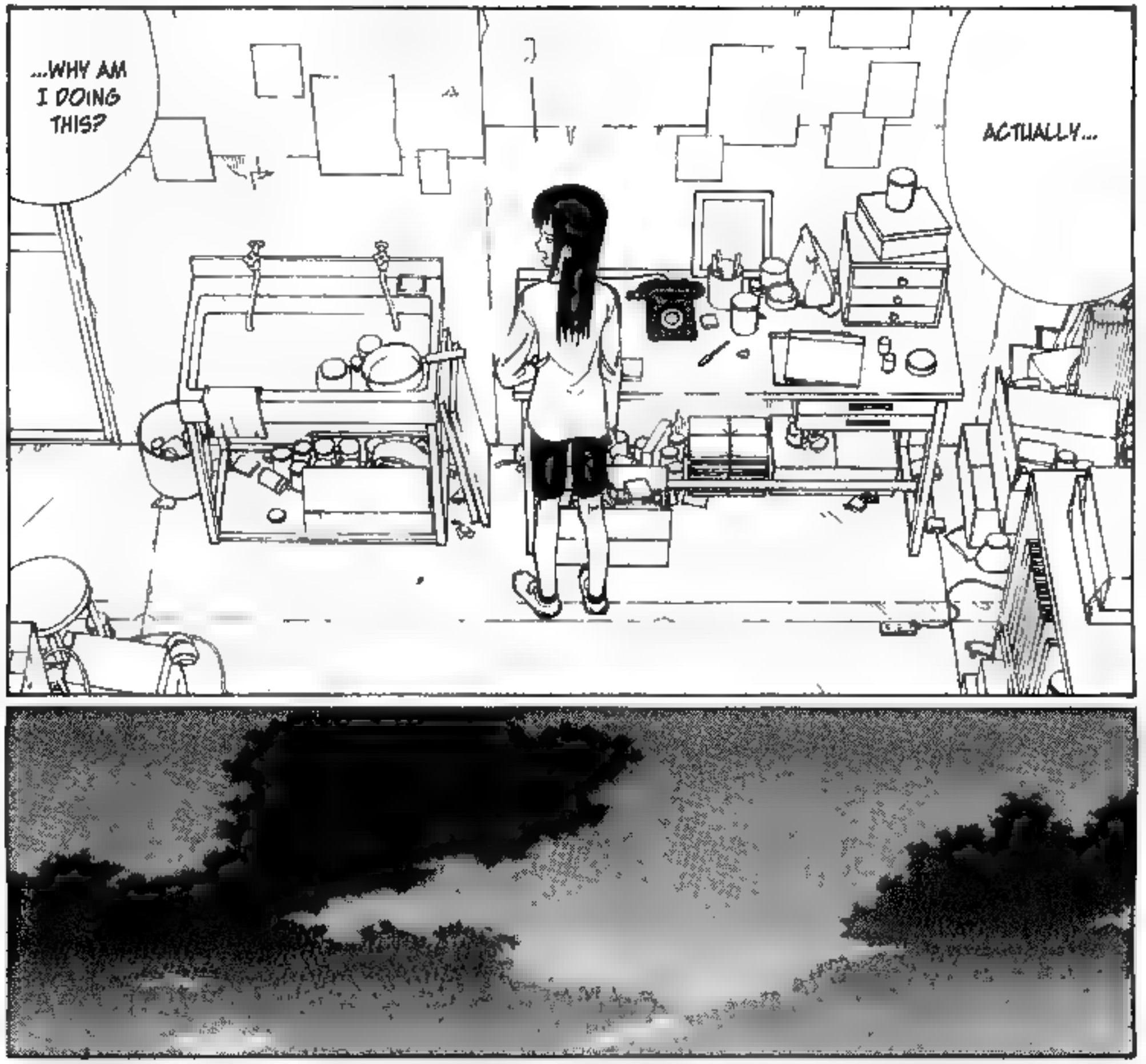
WELL THEN.

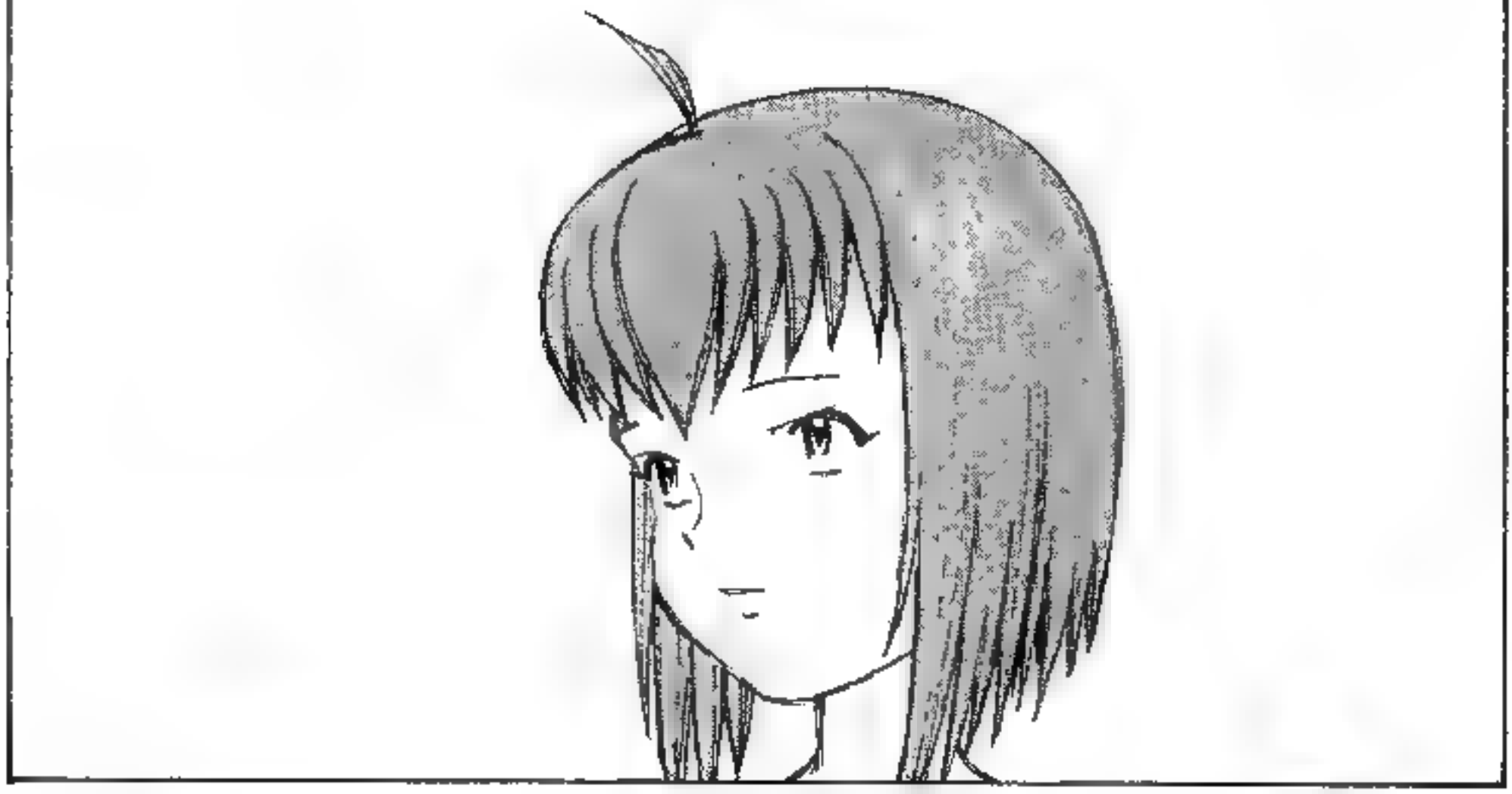
IF SHE'S WITH TSURUMARU-KUN...

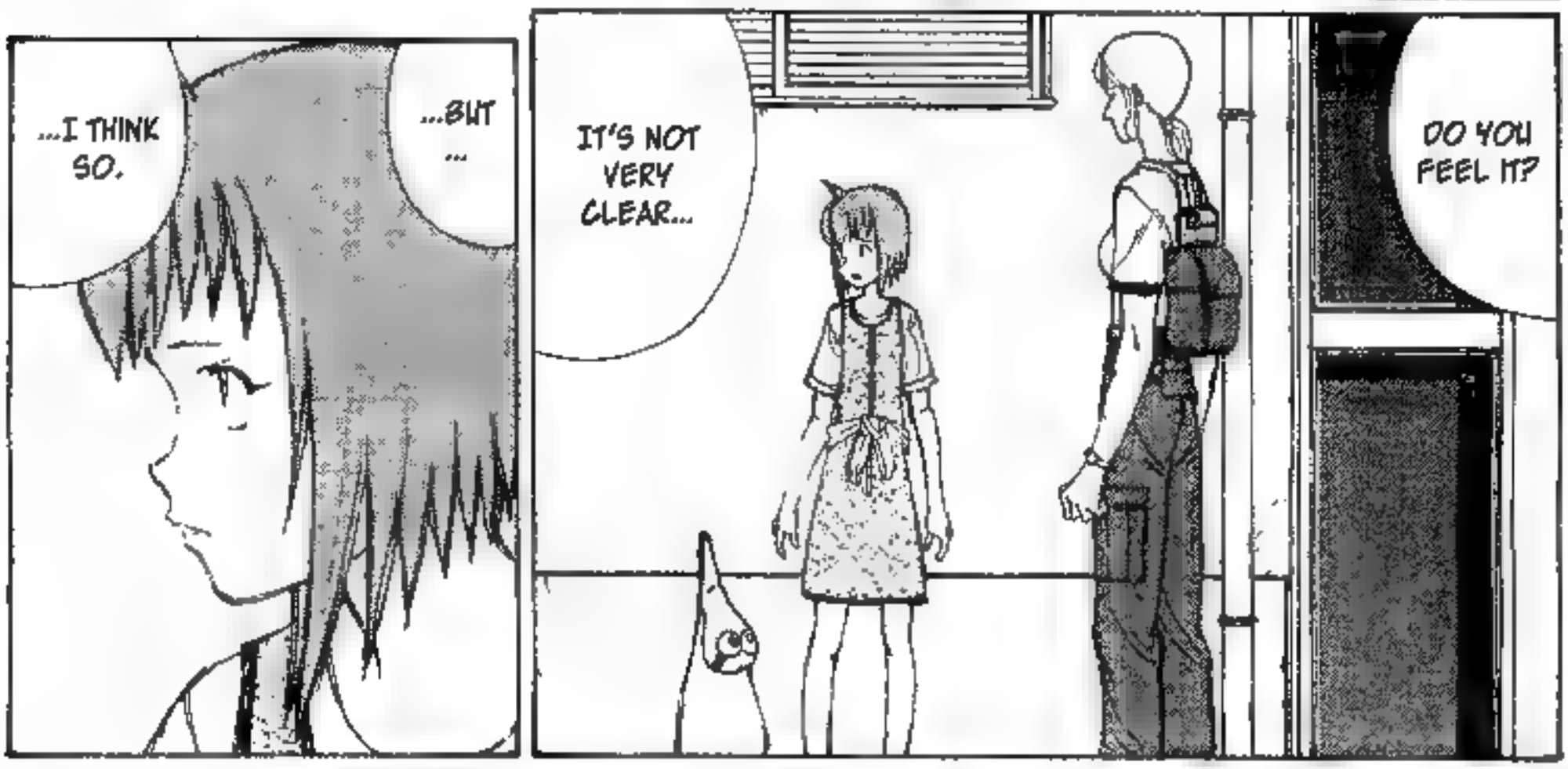
SHIINA IS WITH YOU?



DAMN!
OUCH!


...WHY AM I DOING THIS?
ACTUALLY...




...I THINK SO.
...BUT ...
IT'S NOT VERY CLEAR...
DO YOU FEEL IT?

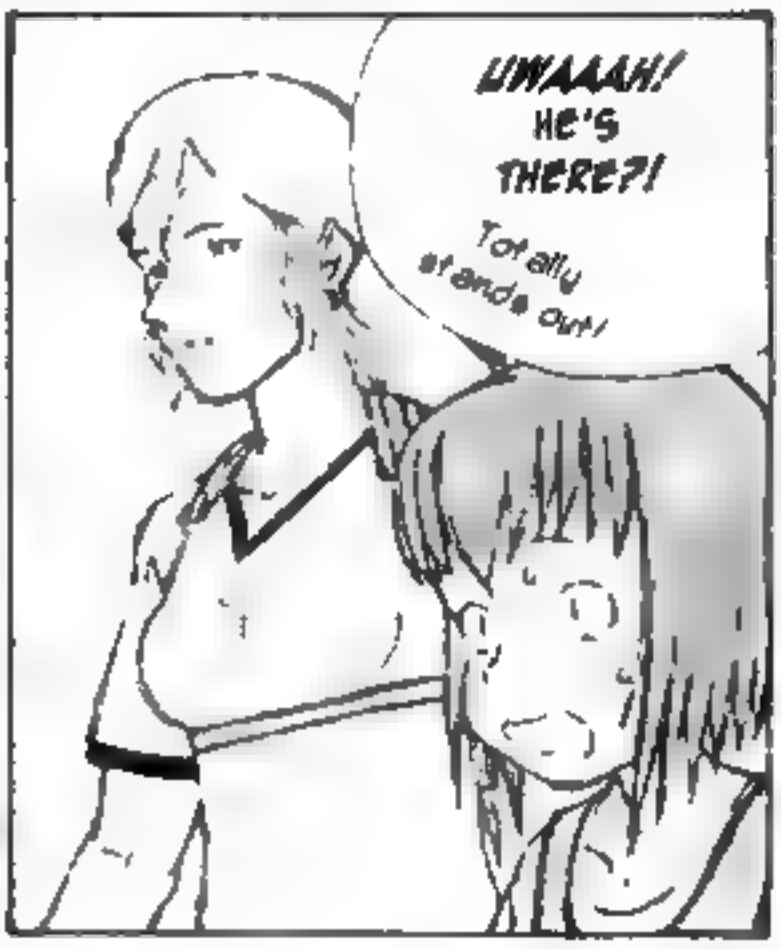
SOMEWHERE HERE...

AH_

THIS PARK...

IT'LL LISTEN TO ME.

IT'S OKAY.
WHAT NOW?
IT CAN ALLOW ITSELF TO BE SEEN.


UWAAAH! HE'S THERE?!
Totally at arm's out!

ROBERT.

THERE YOU ARE AT LAST!

NOW YOU CAN STOP RESISTING!

I CAN STILL MAKE IT!

I CAN STILL RUN!

ROBERT!

I WON'T HAND YOU OVER TO THEM AGAIN!

I WON'T LET THEM DO TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU ANY MORE.

IT'S OKAY!

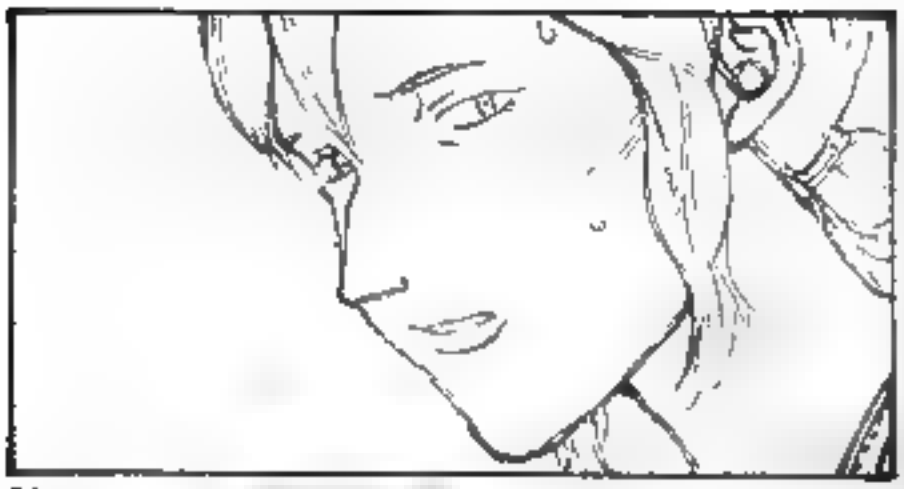
WE'LL FIND A GOOD DOCTOR!

ROBERT, LISTEN TO ME!

ROBERT!!

AH...

HE'S RUNNING OFF!



WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW!

EH?

THE BOY...

...THAT IS LINKED TO TARASQUE...

...IS MY SON.

Shadow Star - Narutaru

Translated by Katydid
Edited by Jinchi

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HER SON IS ROBERT FRANKLIN.

HER HUSBAND WAS A MARINE, BUT HE DIED 8 YEARS AGO IN THE IRAQ WAR.

JANE FRANKLIN HAS BEEN STAYING IN JAPAN FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS WITH HER SON.

HE ADAPTED TO THE LIFE IN JAPAN QUICKLY.

...BUT RATHER TO A NORMAL JAPANESE SCHOOL.

I DIDN'T SEND ROBERT TO THE SCHOOL IN THE ARMY BASE...

...WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER.

I PLAYED WITH HIM...

...IN THIS PARK...

UNTIL ROBERT REACHED 10 THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS.

THE RULES IN AMERICA ARE A BIT DIFFERENT THAN IN JAPAN, BUT...

...GAMES LIKE THAT...

BLIND MAN'S BLUFF AND HIDE AND SEEK...

AND THEN?

HE WAS TREATED FOR A YEAR... IN A JAPANESE HOSPITAL AND THE MILITARY CLINIC IN CAMP ZUKERAN.

A RARE, INCURABLE DISEASE.

BUT ABOUT 2 YEARS AGO, HE WAS DISCOVERED TO HAVE A SERIOUS NERVOUS SYSTEM CONDITION THAT WAS ALREADY IN AN ADVANCED STAGE.

AFTER THAT, IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, JANE RETURNED TO AMERICA.

SINCE THEN, ROBERT'S WHEREABOUTS HAVE BEEN UNCLEAR.

...THIS INCOMPREHENSIBLE CREATURE...

ROBERT'S SICKNESS AND...

IT WAS ALL TOO MUCH.

I HAD NO CHOICE BACK THEN.

...HE WOULD GET FIRST-CLASS TREATMENT.

I THOUGHT IF I HANDED ROBERT OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT...

BUT...

...TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.

I THOUGHT THEY WOULD STOP AT NOTHING...

...I WAS DECEIVING MYSELF.

...TO HAVE A GUINEA PIG.

RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING ...

...THEY KEPT HIM ALIVE...

YESTERDAY...

...NOT A HUMAN.

TO THEM HE WAS...

SINCE THEN SHE AND HER LUGGAGE HAVE DISAPPEARED
-
SHE DID NOT REPORT TO THE AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR HER.

THE SECRET SERVICE IS NOW TRYING ALL POSSIBLE MEANS IN ORDER TO FIND HER.

...SHE ARRIVED WITH A MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN HIGASHI-IWAKUNI.

...BUT I COULDN'T LEAVE HIM THERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW...

YESTERDAY, I...

...GOT ROBERT AND FLED.

BUT IN THE END HE FLED FROM ME TOO.

MAYBE HE COULDN'T FORGIVE ME...

AND THEN...

...THIS MORNING, SHE WAS INVOLVED IN A HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT.

BUT THAT PROBABLY WON'T WORK NOW.

THEY WANTED TO KEEP IT ALL UNDER WRAPS...

UNDER-STOOD.

HENCE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

...COVERING EVERYTHING UP WITH A HUGE LIE.

THEY'RE ...

AND IF JANE WERE TO BE QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE, THEN THE SECRET SERVICE WOULD BE IN HOT WATER.

JANE DOESN'T WANT TO BE ARRESTED NOW, OF COURSE.

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW.

MAYBE HE'S NOT THINKING LOGICALLY.

WHY...

...IS ROBERT [redacted] AWAY NOW?

FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GO SO FAR...

MAYBE HE'S JUST PLAYING BLIND MAN'S BLUFF!

BUT...

AND WHEN IT'S JUST THAT...

...THEN WE MUST FOLLOW HIM!

WELL ...

BLIND MAN'S BLUFF...

ISN'T HE?

THEN WE MUST CATCH HIM!

IF THE SOLDIERS SHOW UP HOSHIMARU WILL THINK OF SOMETHING!

IT'S OKAY!

HUH?

A DANGEROUS BLIND MAN'S BLUFF...!

WE'LL JUST CATCH HIM!

AFTER ALL, I KNOW WHERE HE IS!

SAY, YOU...

JUST CALL ME JANE.

MY NAME IS JANE FRANKLIN.

AH...

HE'S CALLED HOSHIMARU?

MY NAME IS...

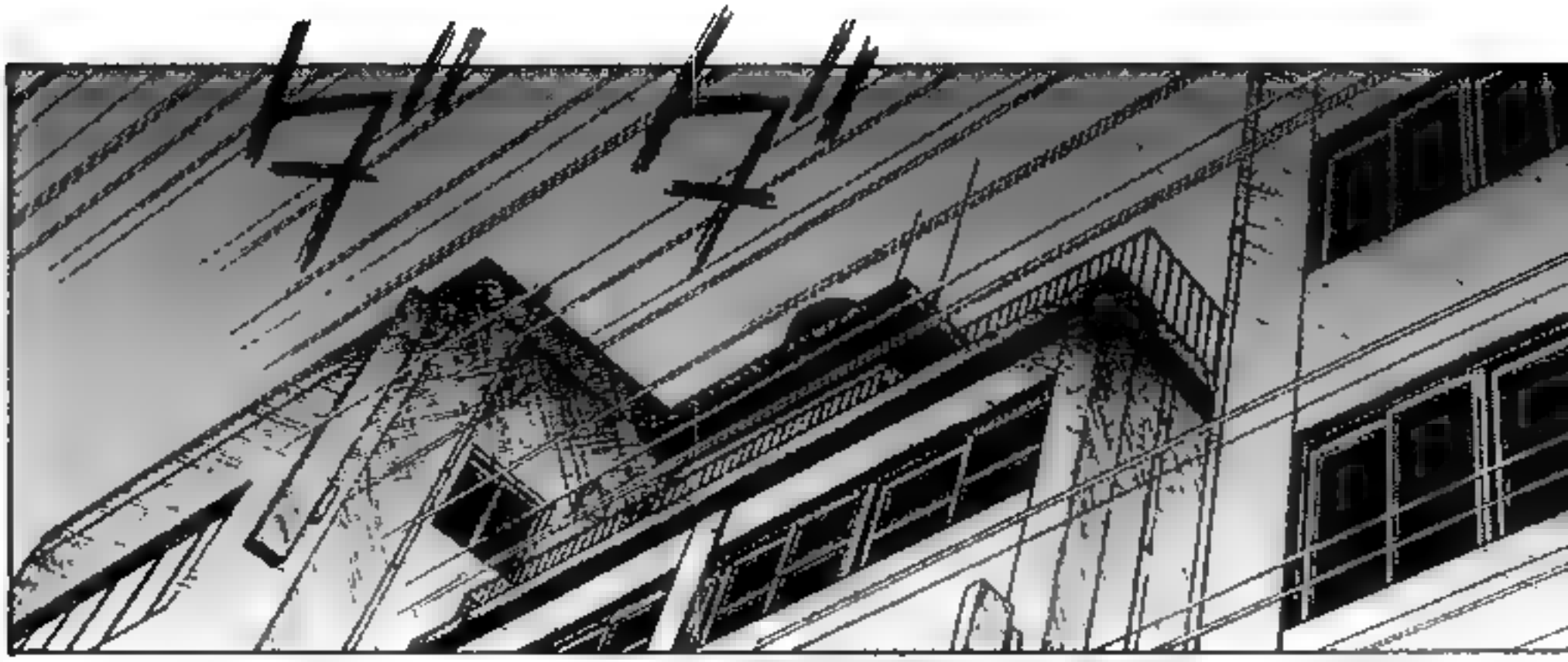
...SHIINA.

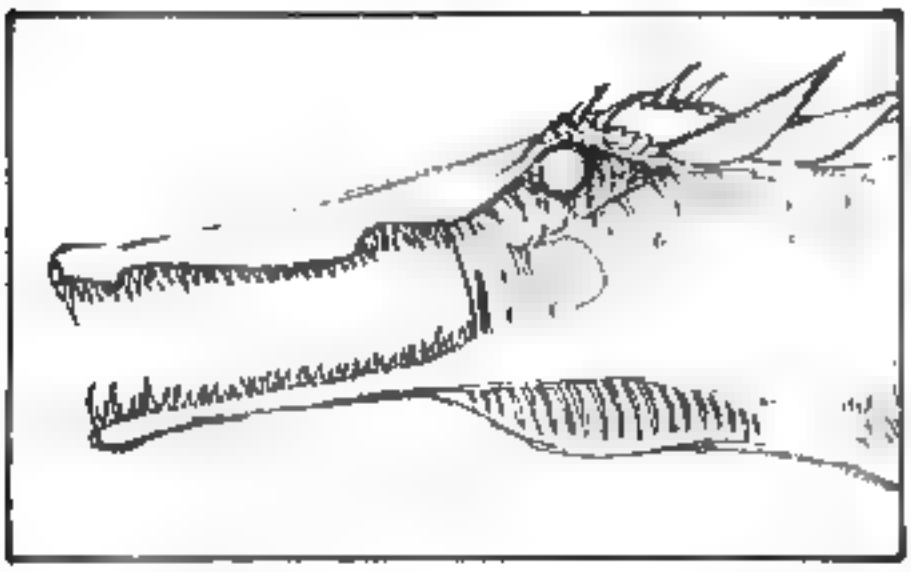
I...

NICE TO MEET YOU, SHIINA.

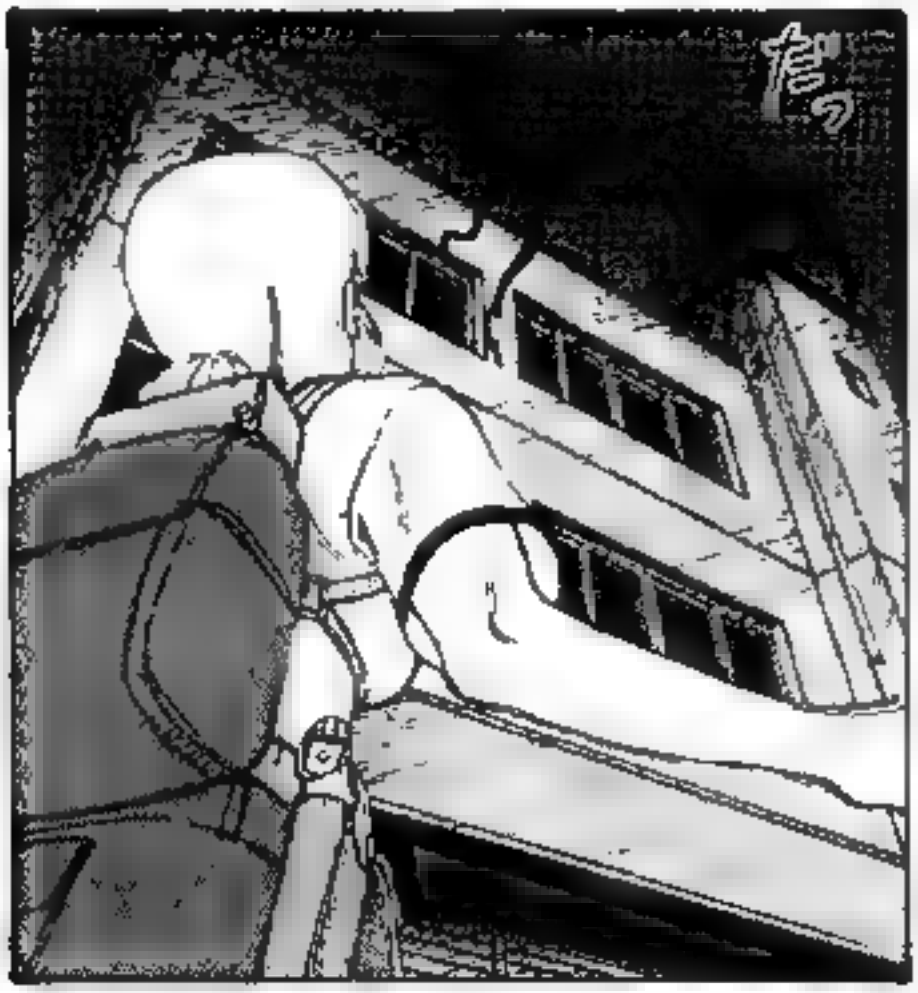
DOESN'T SOUND VERY JAPANESE...

SHIINA...





ROBERT!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HE'S OVER THERE!

THERE!

HERE!

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WAIT!

LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

THE ARMY ISN'T THERE YET.

ME TOO.

TIRED?

YOU SHOULD TAKE A NAP.

CAN YOU SLEEP?

WERE YOU CHOSEN BECAUSE OF THAT?

Huh?!

YOU'RE A STRANGE KID, AREN'T YOU?

IF THE SOLDIERS COME I'LL WAKE YOU UP.

HERE.

YES.

...again?

You...

Hoshimaru?

Who are you?

Papa?

Is that you, Tsurumaru?

Tsurumaru?

Shiina...

WE HAVE TO GO

WAKE UP!

THE ARMY HAS MADE A MOVE!

SHIRAI

WITH SUCH A BIG ONE?!

MILLER-01 HERE.
REQUESTING
DATA LINK.

COORS-01 HERE.
DATA LINK NORMAL.

LEAD US TO THE
TARGET PLEASE.

ROGER.

ALREADY
ON IT.

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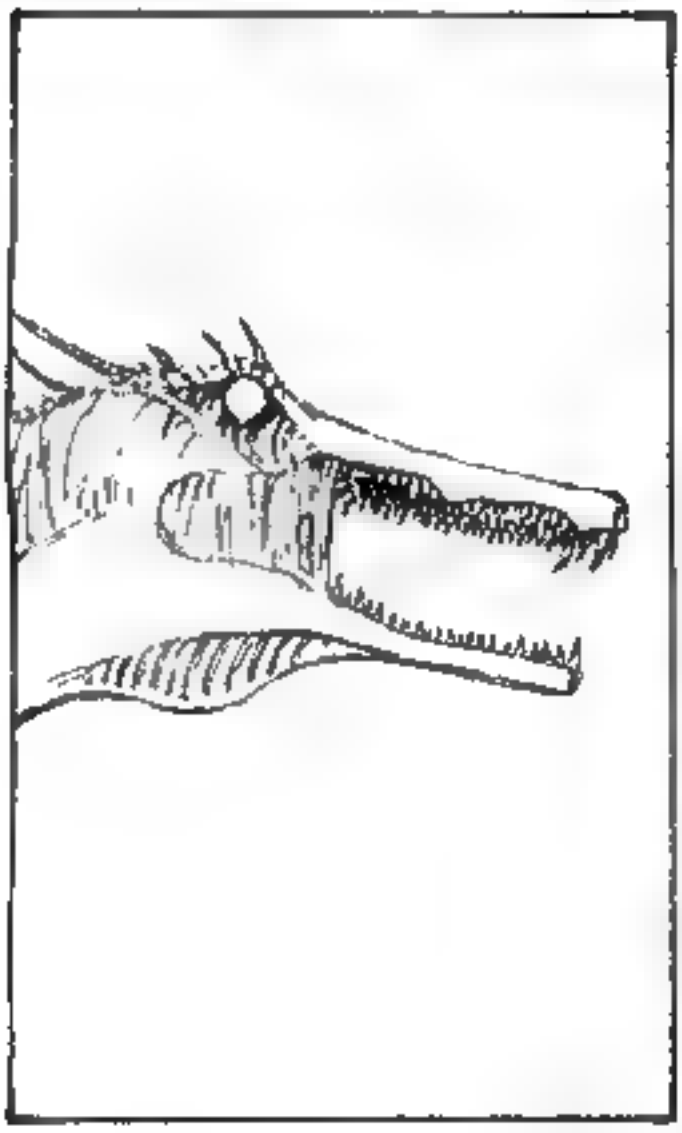
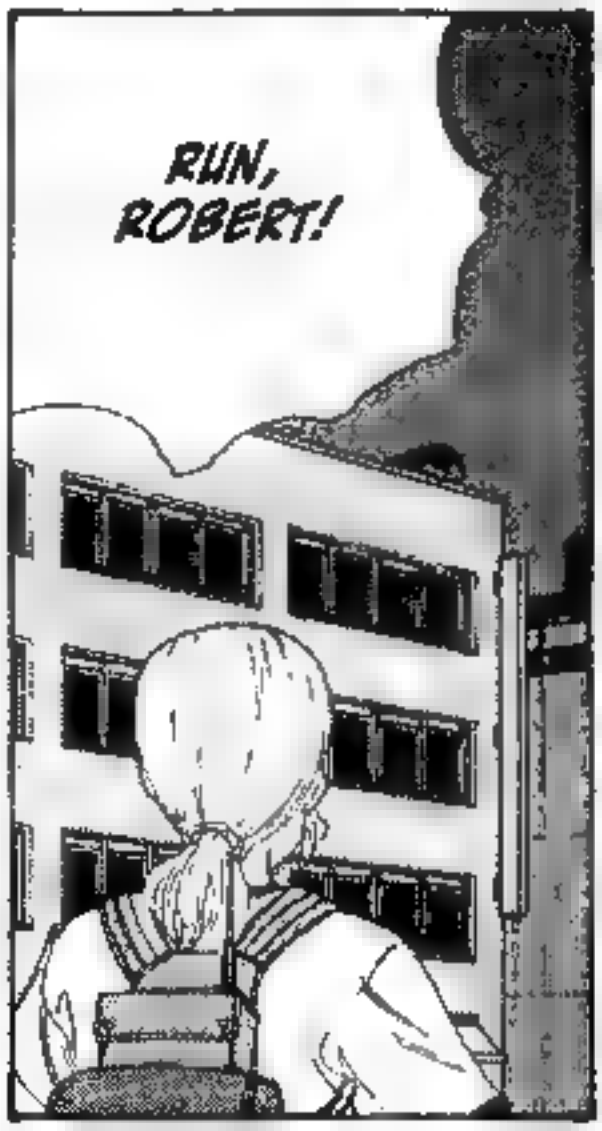
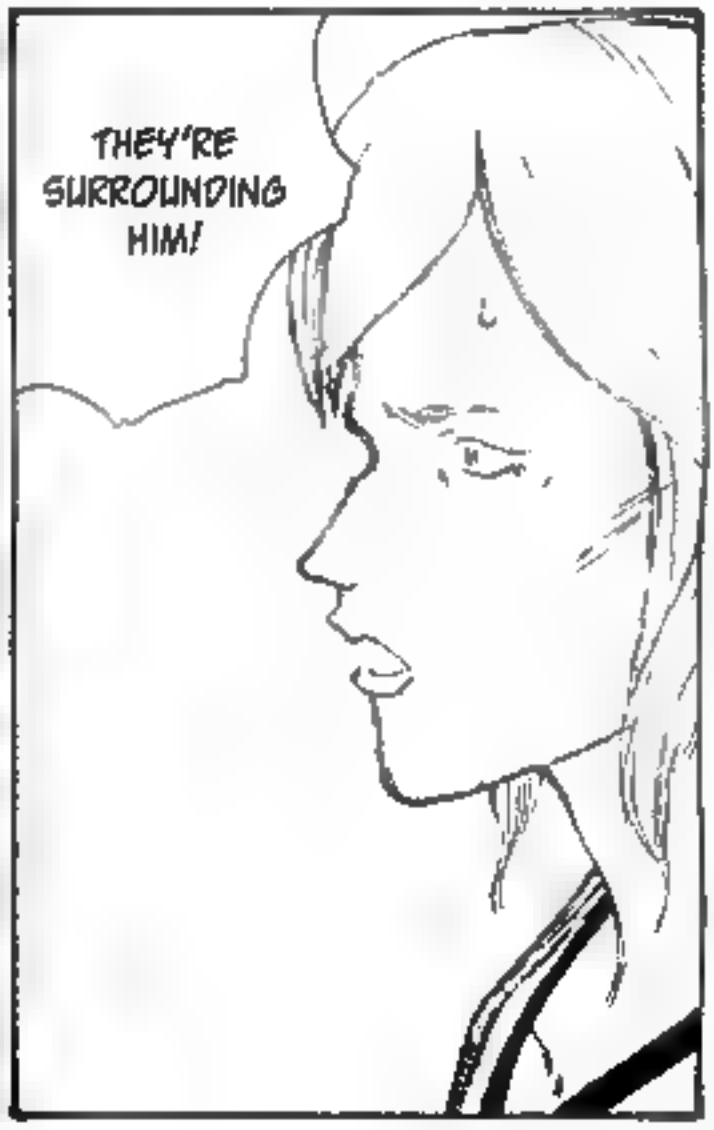
HE'S UP THERE!




RUN, ROBERT!


THEY'RE SURROUNDING HIM!

FIRE!

TARGET IN SIGHTS.

25MM GATLING READY TO FIRE.

ROBERT!

WHAT KIND OF PLANE IS THAT?!

TARGET HIT.

CHECK SITUATION.

TARGET OBJECT MOVING!!

THE HUMAN PART WAS NOT HIT? LUCKY BASTARD!

STANDBY THE 40MM BOFORS!! WE'LL GET HIM YET!!

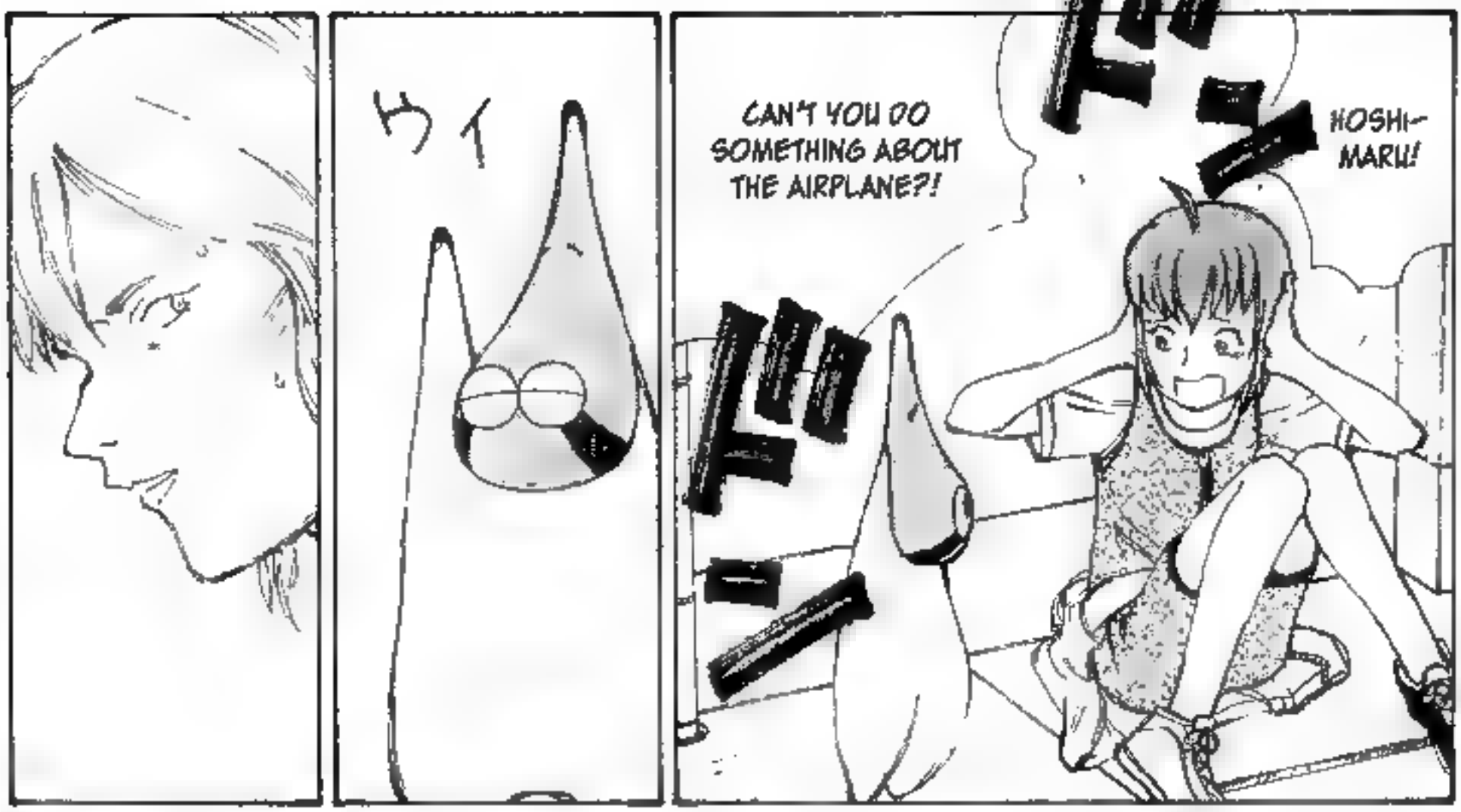
FIRE!

BUT...

DON'T GO THERE! IT'S DANGEROUS!

ROBERT IS...!

WAAAH!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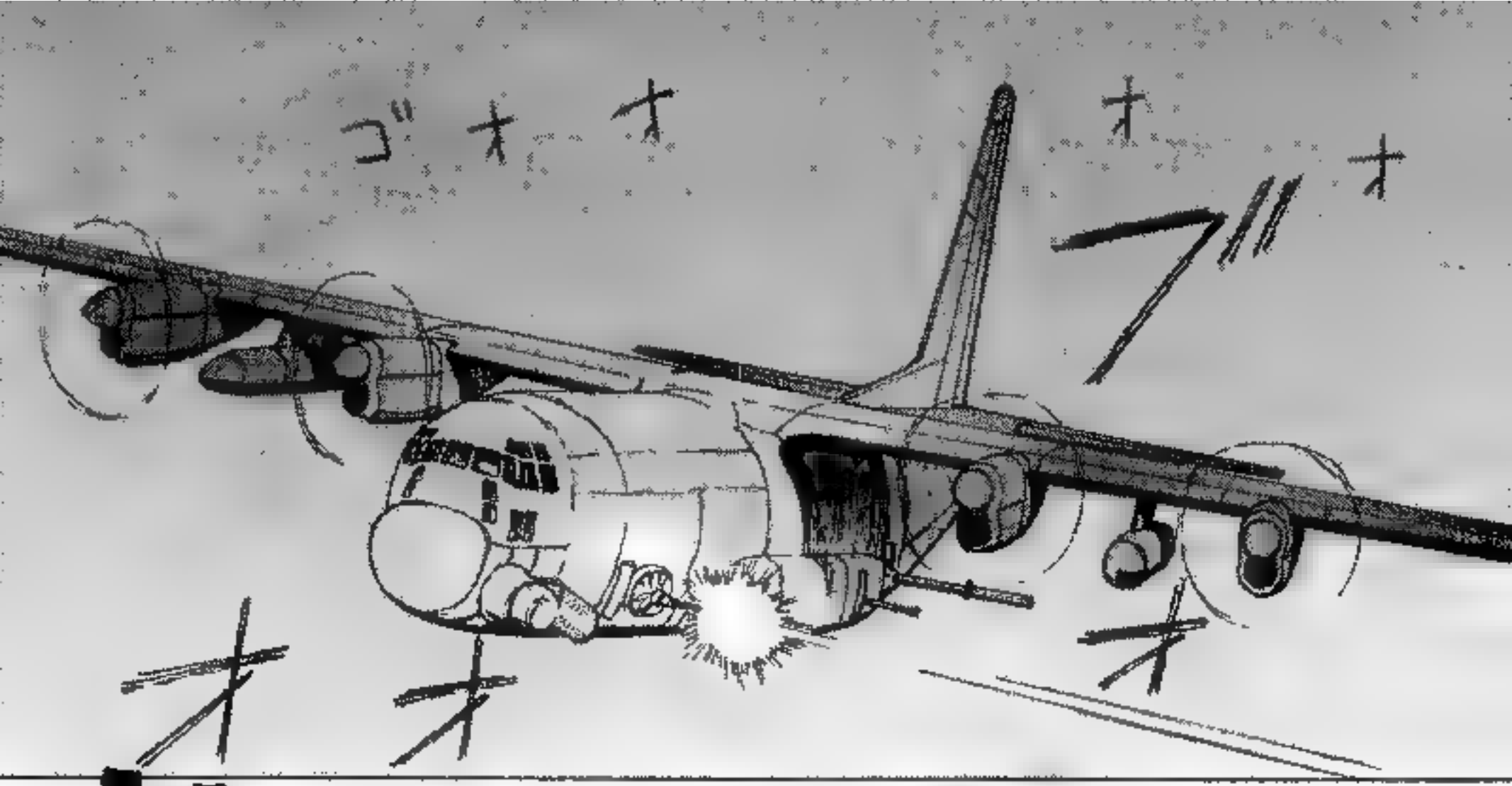
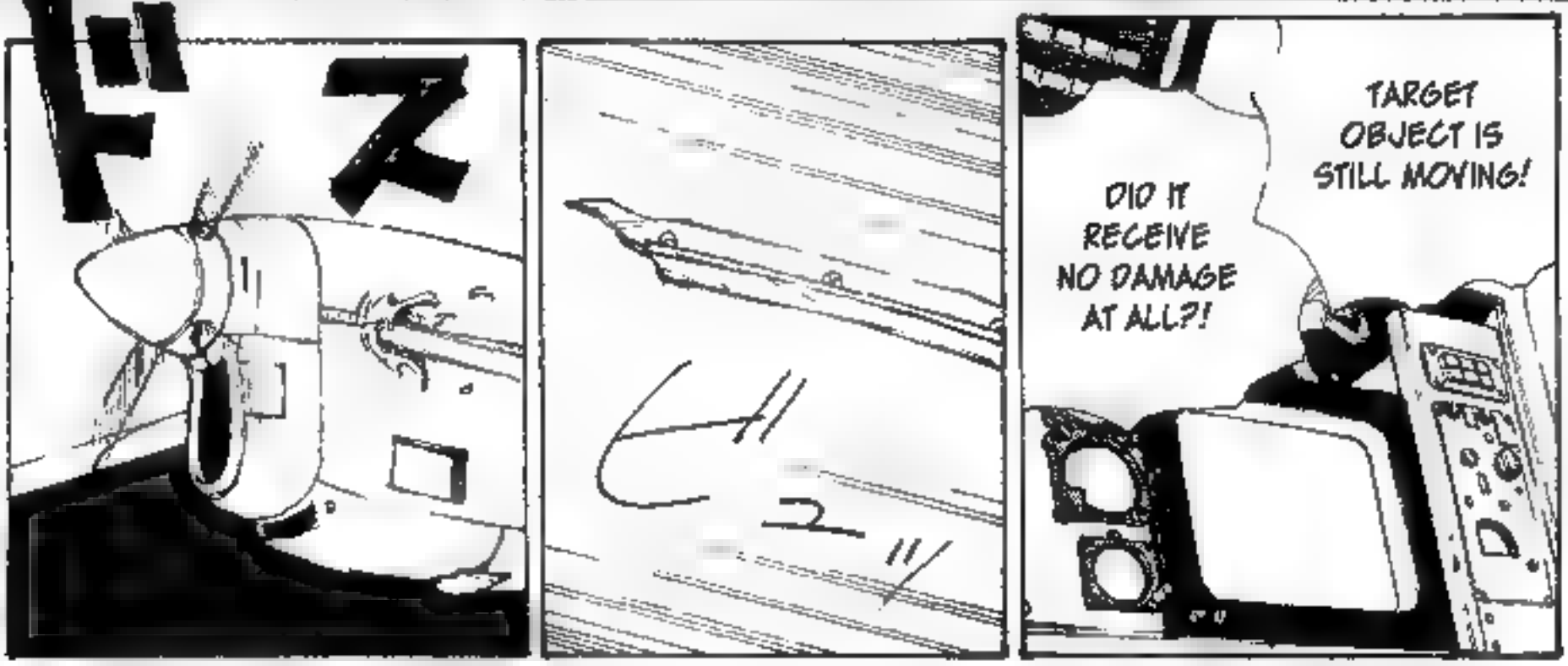
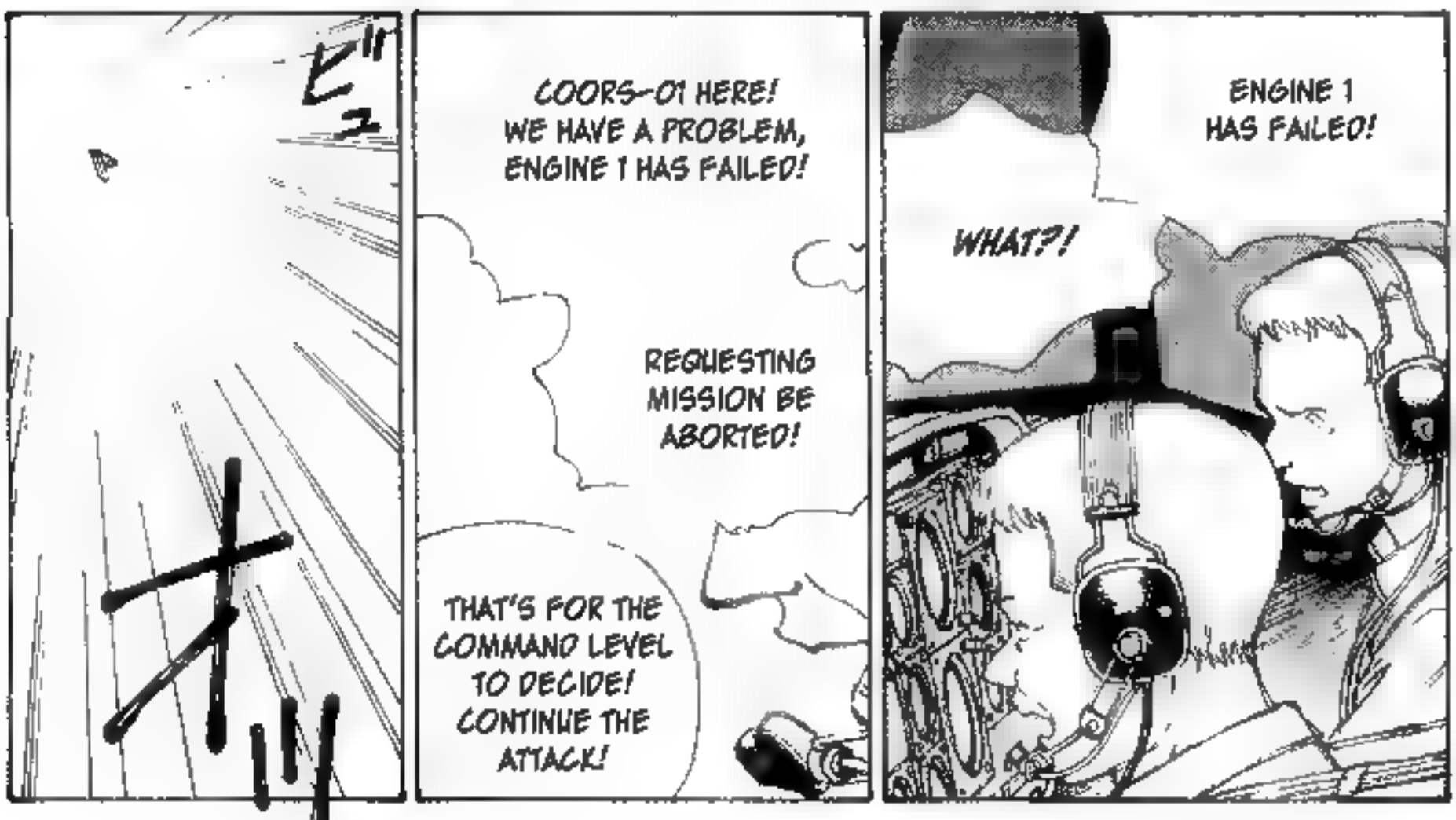
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE AIRPLANE?!
HOSHI-MARU!
ヒゃ!




TARGET OBJECT IS STILL MOVING!
DID IT RECEIVE NO DAMAGE AT ALL?!


COORS-01 HERE! WE HAVE A PROBLEM, ENGINE 1 HAS FAILED!
REQUESTING MISSION BE ABORTED!
THAT'S FOR THE COMMAND LEVEL TO DECIDE! CONTINUE THE ATTACK!
ENGINE 1 HAS FAILED!
WHAT?!

F-2

MILLER-01, DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?

UNABLE TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK, PULL OUT!

WHAT, WE'RE UNDER ATTACK?!

WE'RE PUTTING IT OUT!

ENGINE 1 IS ON FIRE!

BUT THE HELICOPTER IS STILL THERE!

TO ROBERT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TARGET OBJECT NO LONGER VISIBLE.

COORS-01 WAS ATTACKED BY SOMETHING. BE CAREFUL!

ROGER!

GROUND TROOPS SHOULD BE COMING IN ANY MOMENT NOW.

AH...

UH...
UH...

EVERY-
THING
OK?

IT LOOKS LIKE THAT WOMAN!

DON'T LET HER GET OUT OF YOUR SIGHT! THE GROUND TROOPS ARE TO IDENTIFY HER!

A CIVILIAN HAS BROKEN INTO THE OPERATIONS AREA!

JANE!
JANE!

LET'S GO OVER THERE!

YES, YES!

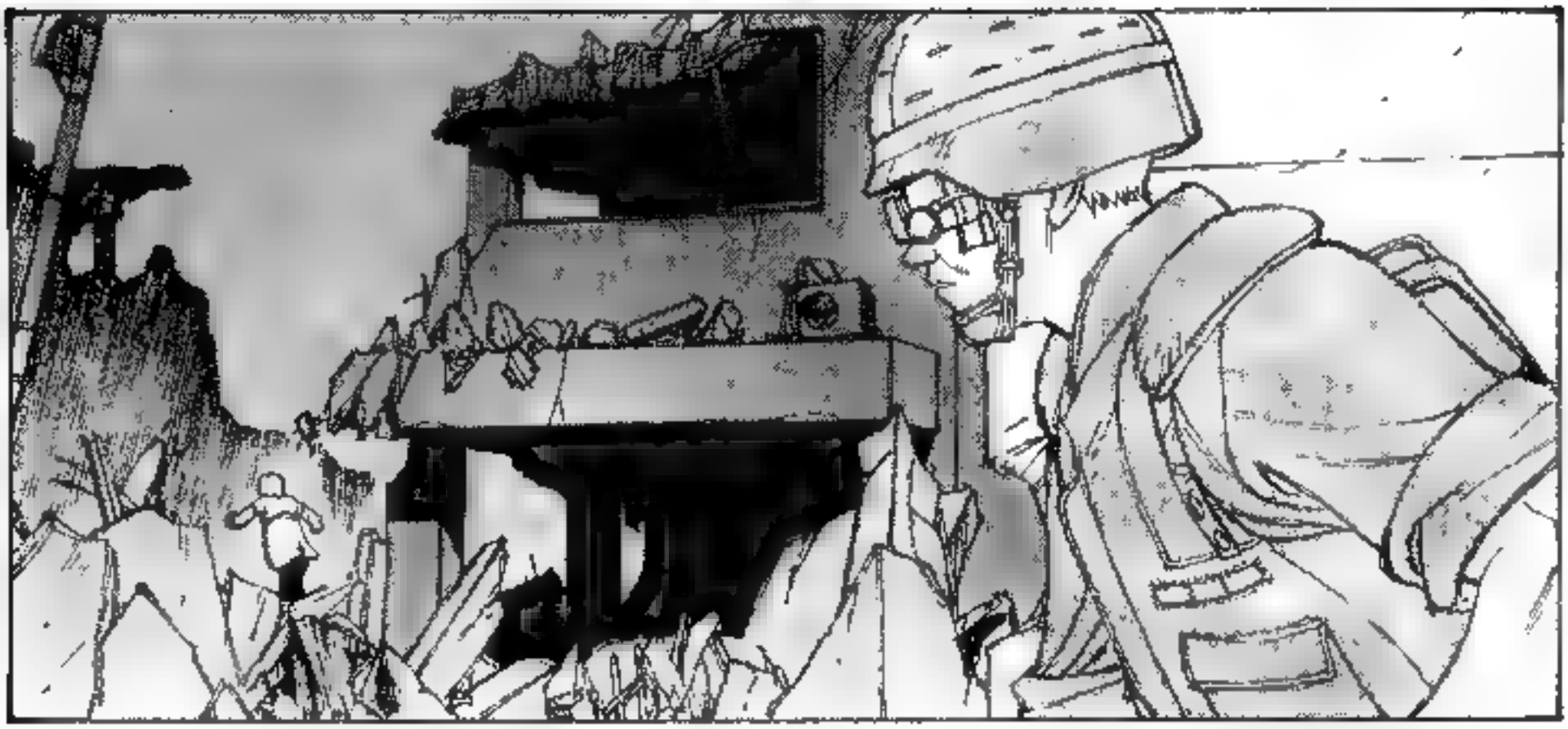
WHAT?

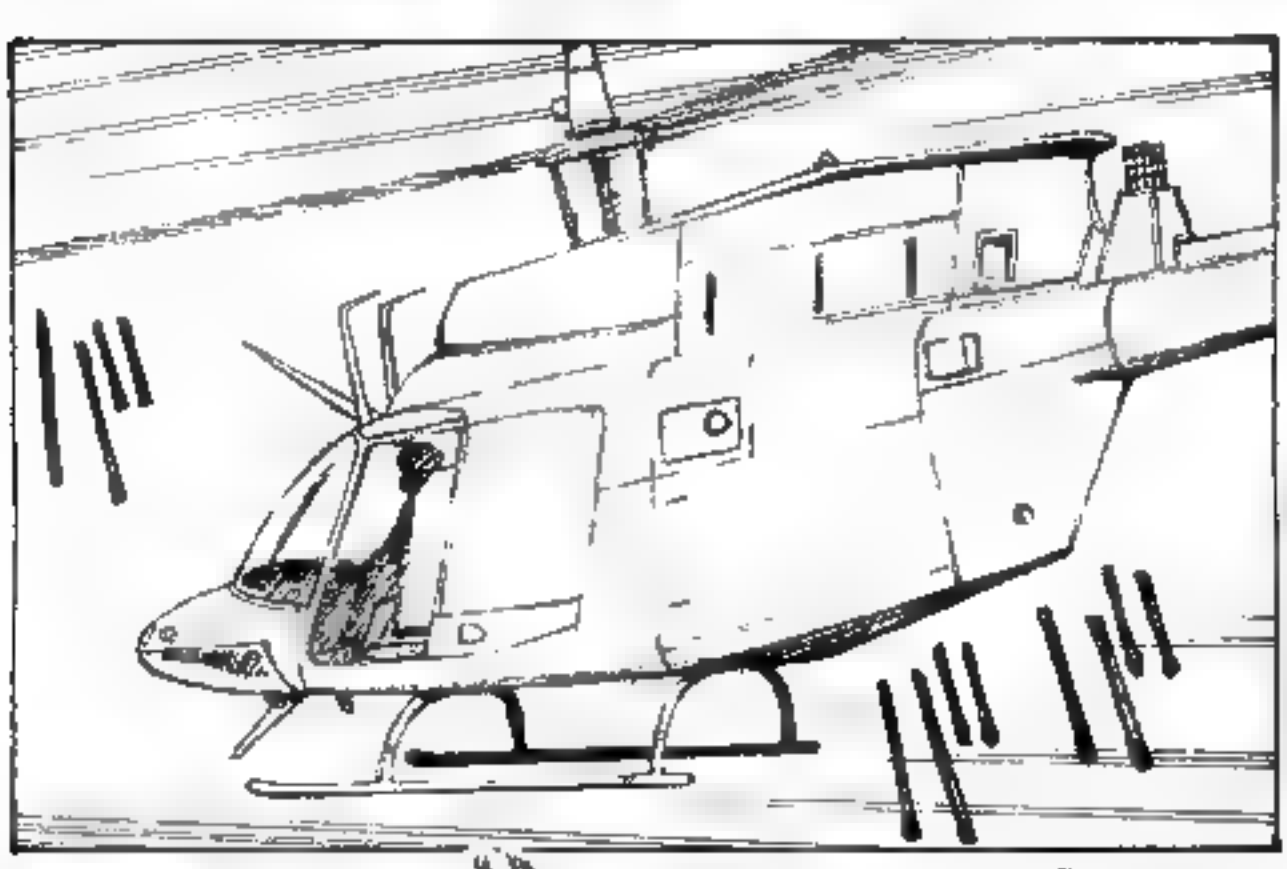
QUIETLY!

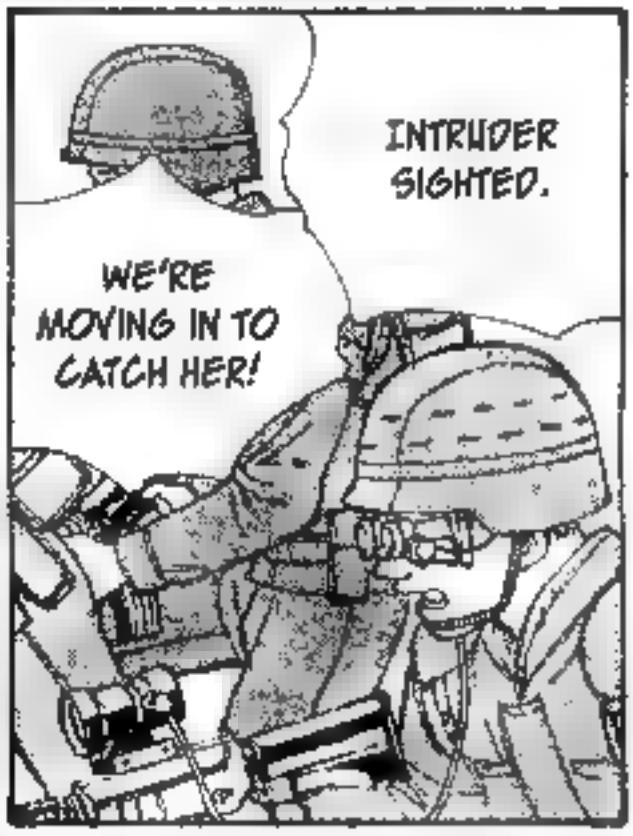
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!

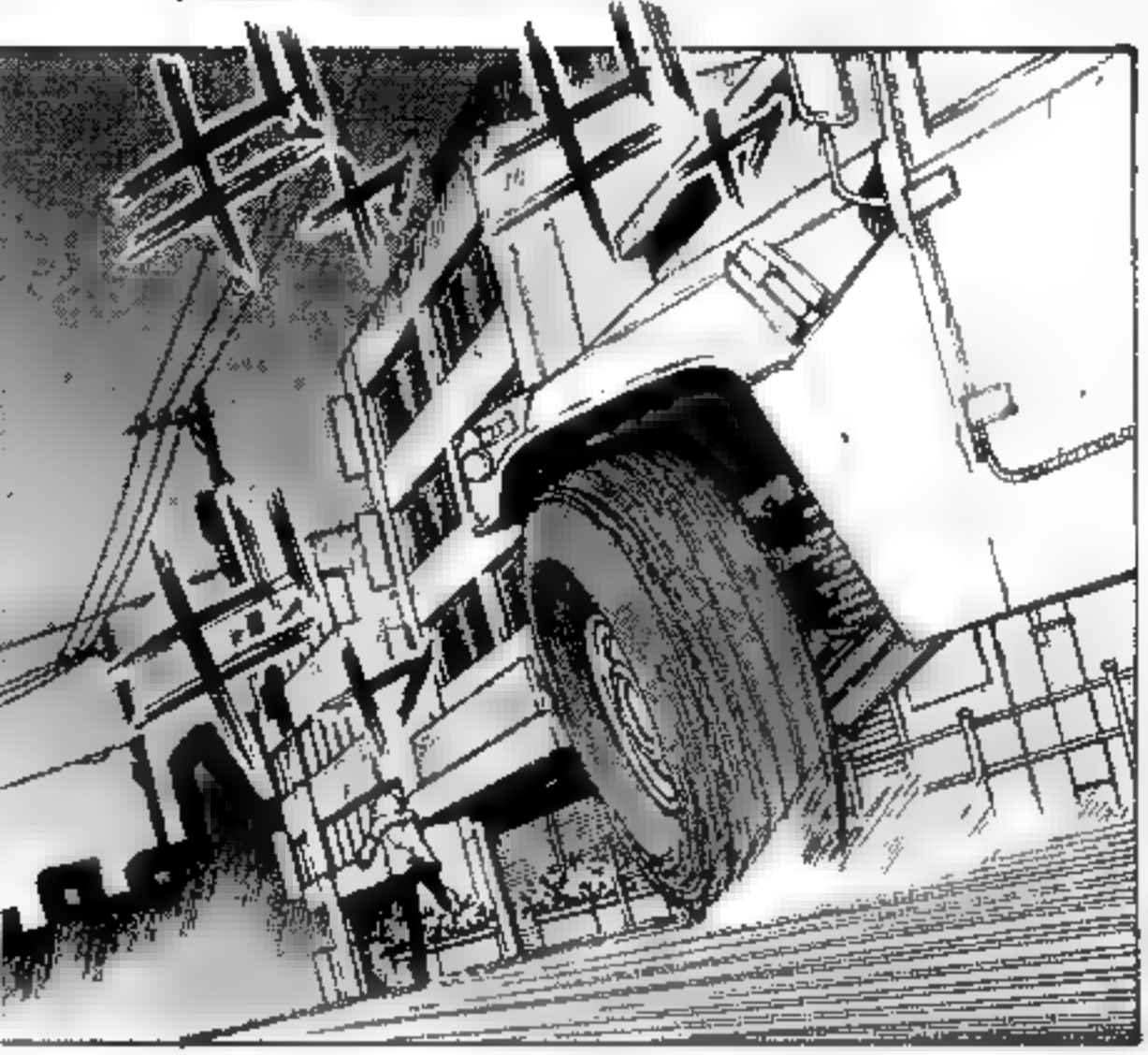
EH?

I THINK WE'RE SURROUNDED.





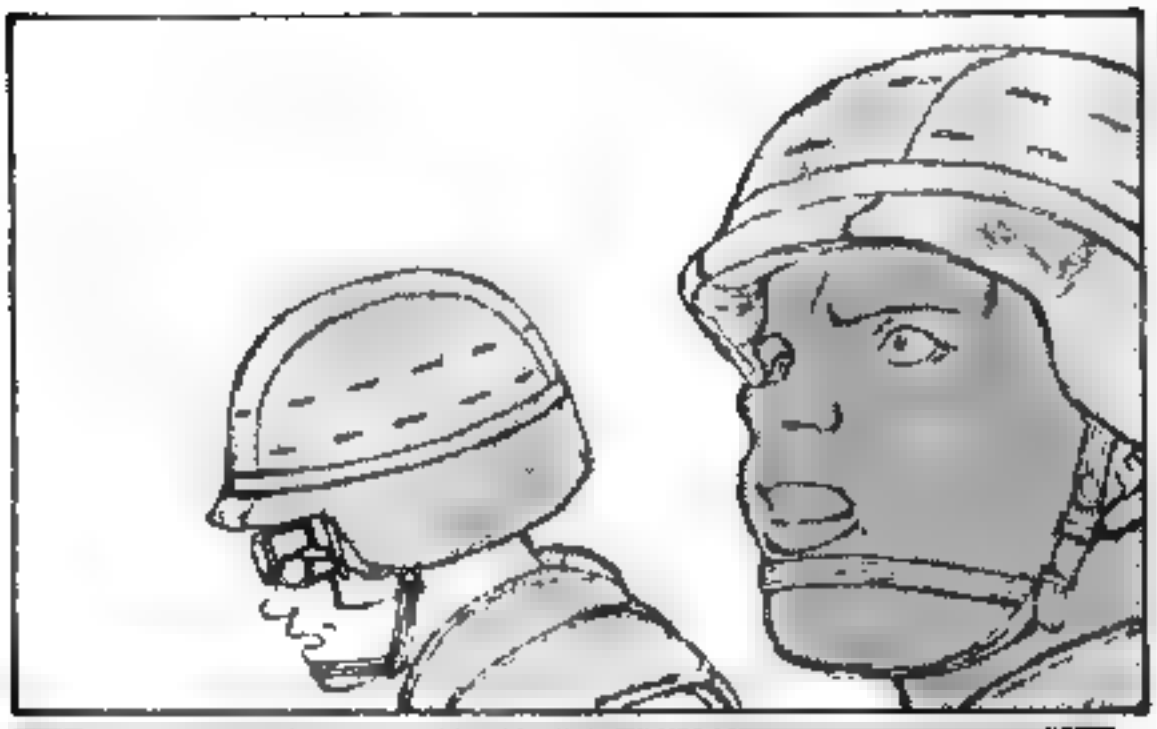

INTRUDER SIGHTED.
WE'RE MOVING IN TO CATCH HER!

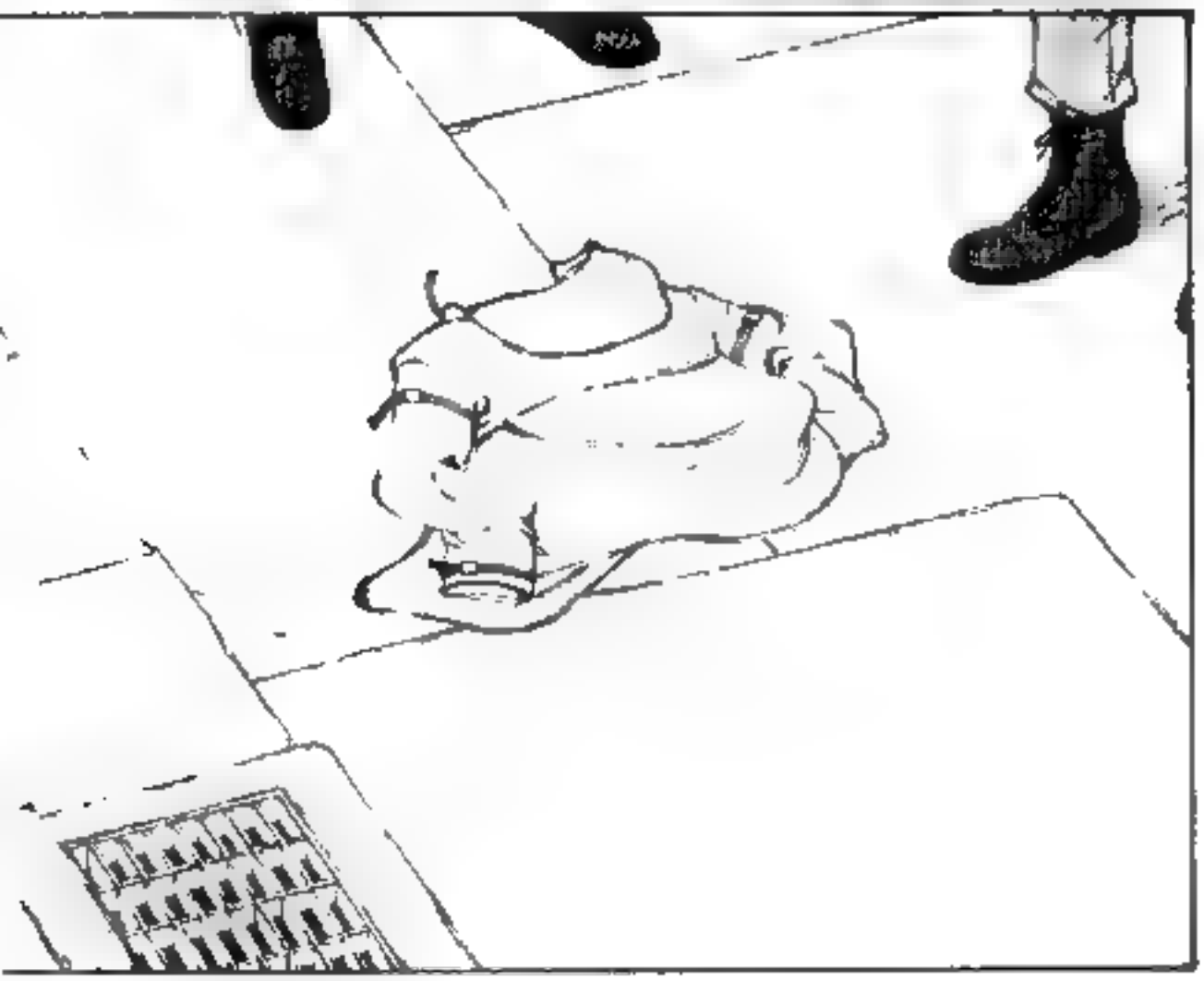


SURROUND HER!

MAN SHE'S FAST!

DON'T MOVE!





AND WHERE IS ROBERT?

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HAVE WE LOST THEM?

HMM...

YOU DIDN'T...

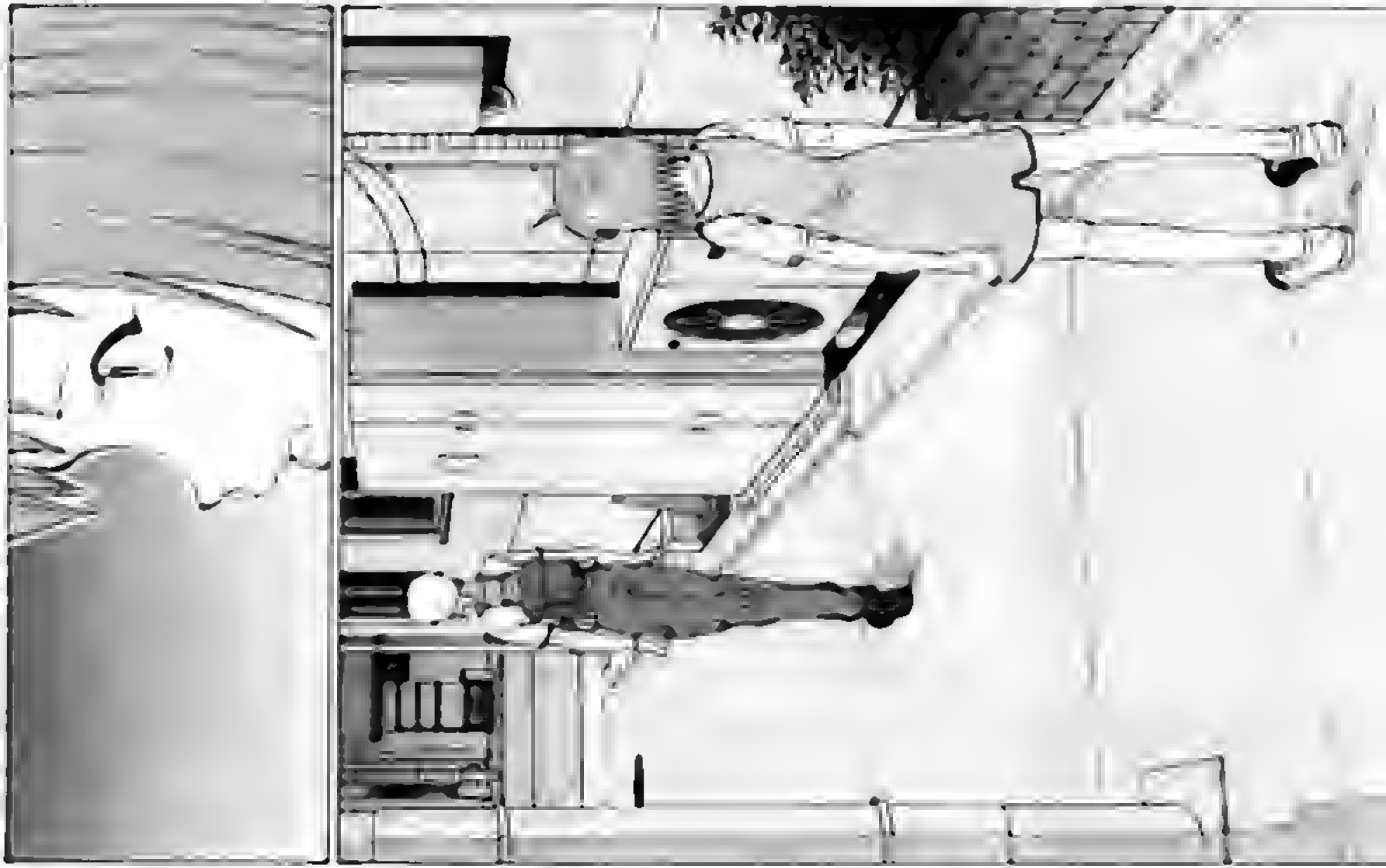
HEY?!

SORRY...

EH?

BACK.

WHERE ...?



THERE HE IS!

BUT THE ARMY HAS DETECTED US.

YES.

NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM!

HE'S FINE!

YES.

LET'S GO!!

THERE!!

AH...

NO.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FOUND, DO YOU?

WATCH OUT, THE ARMY!

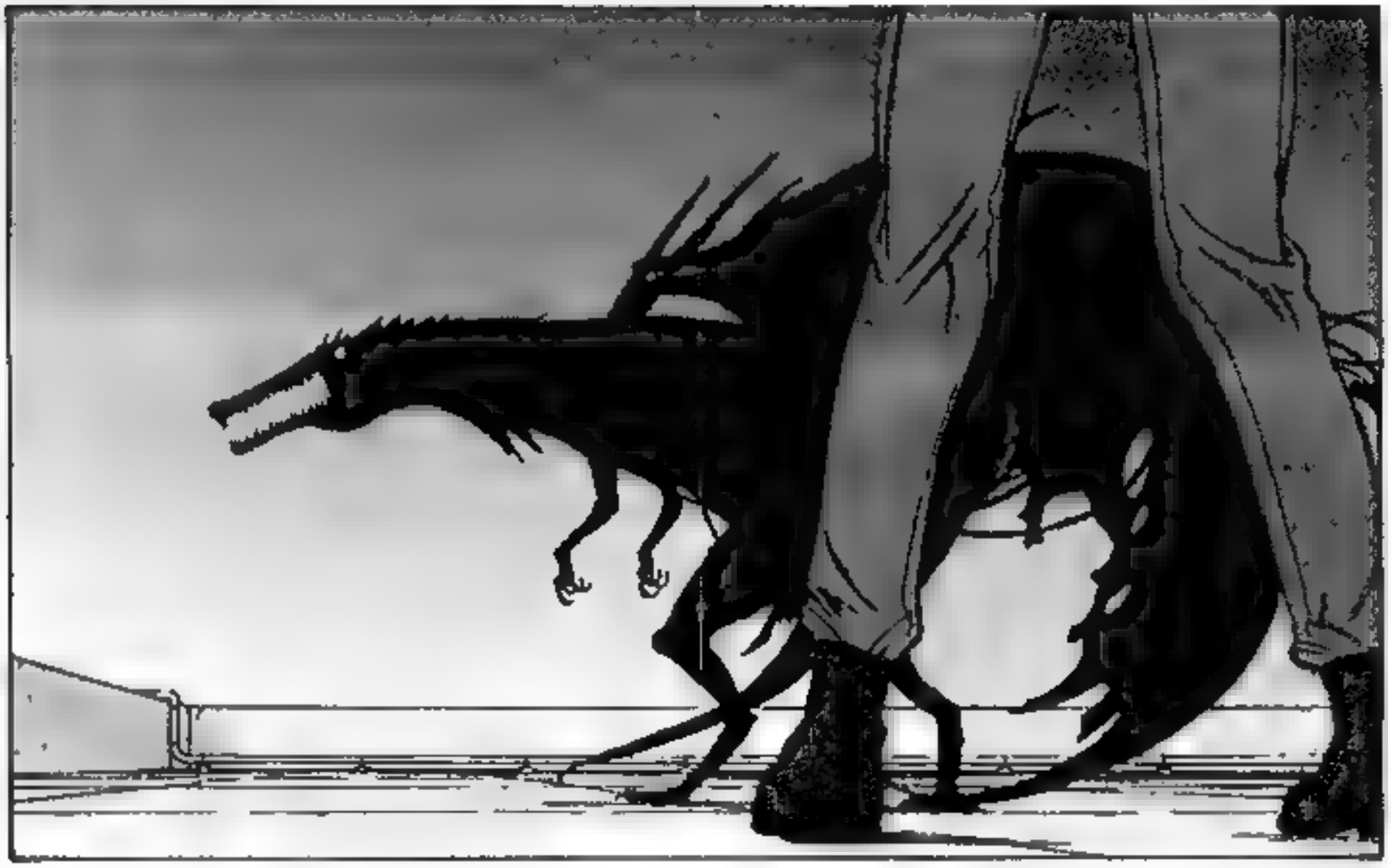
THEY EVEN USED AN AC-130.

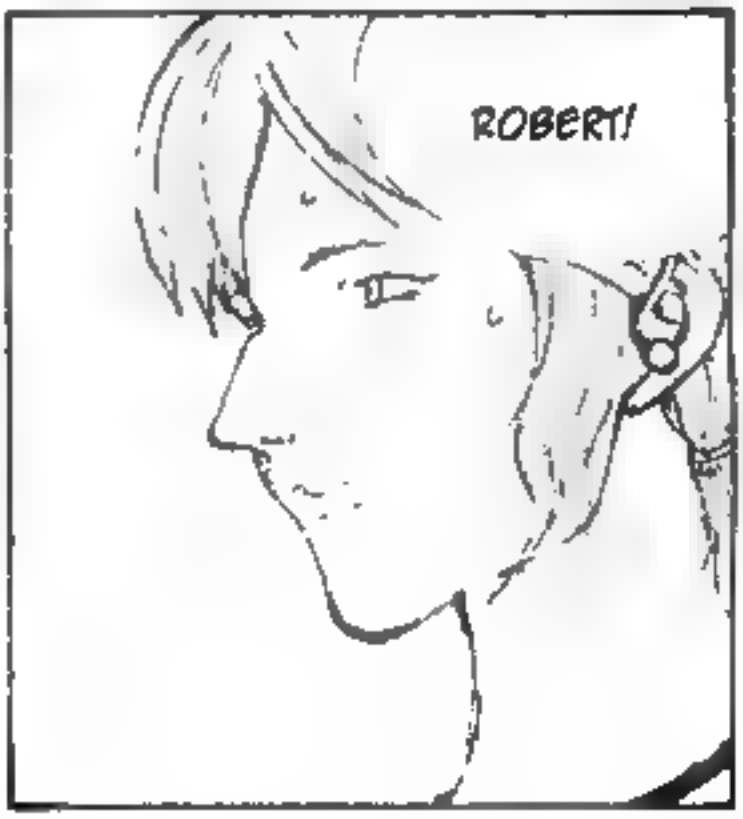
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP SO EASILY!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE DESTROYED STREETS.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

I HAVE A BAD FEELING...

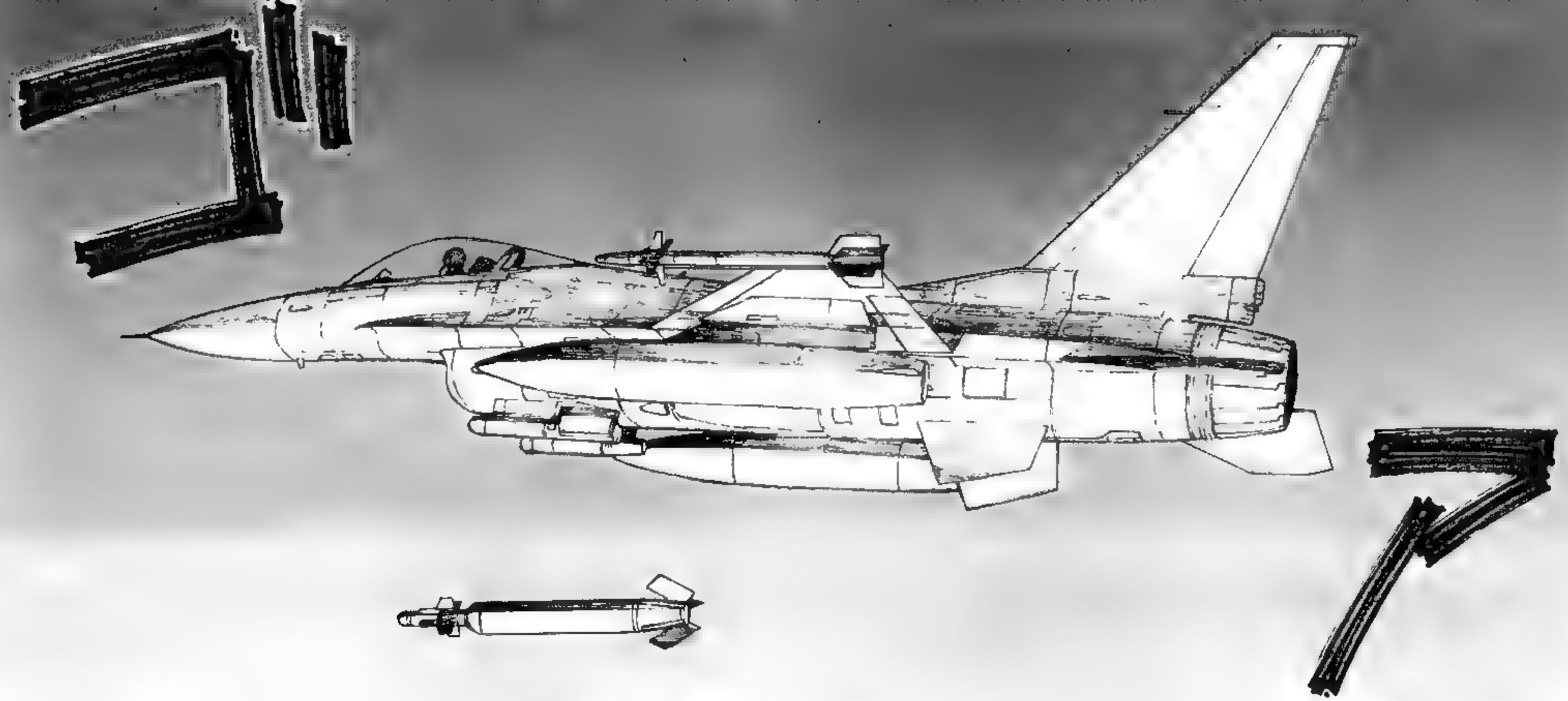


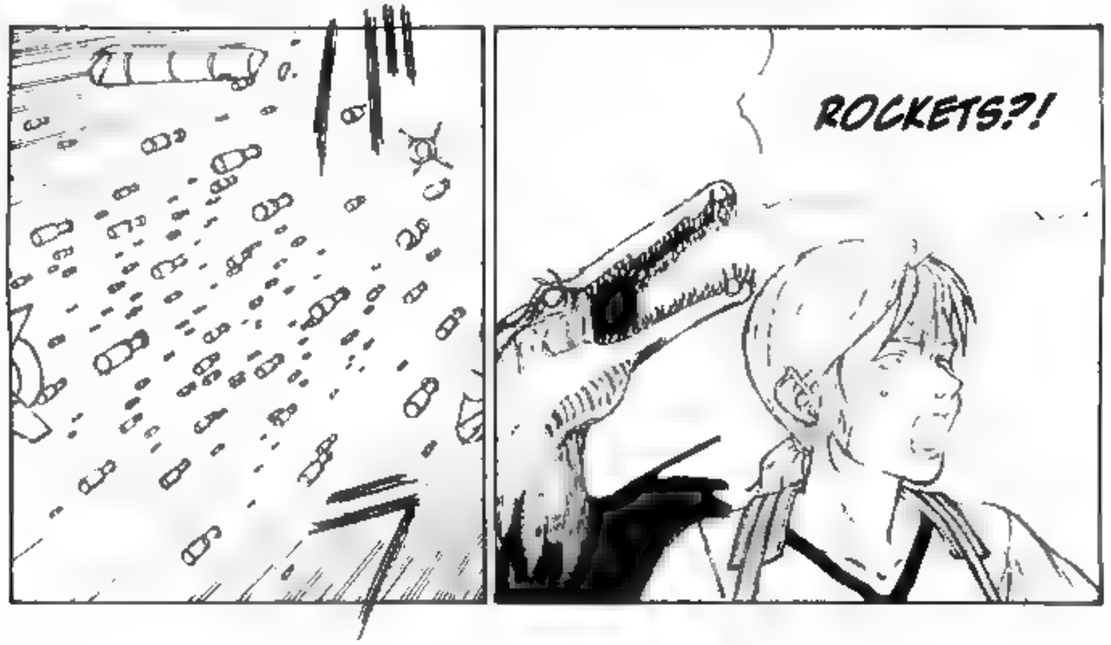

ROBERT!

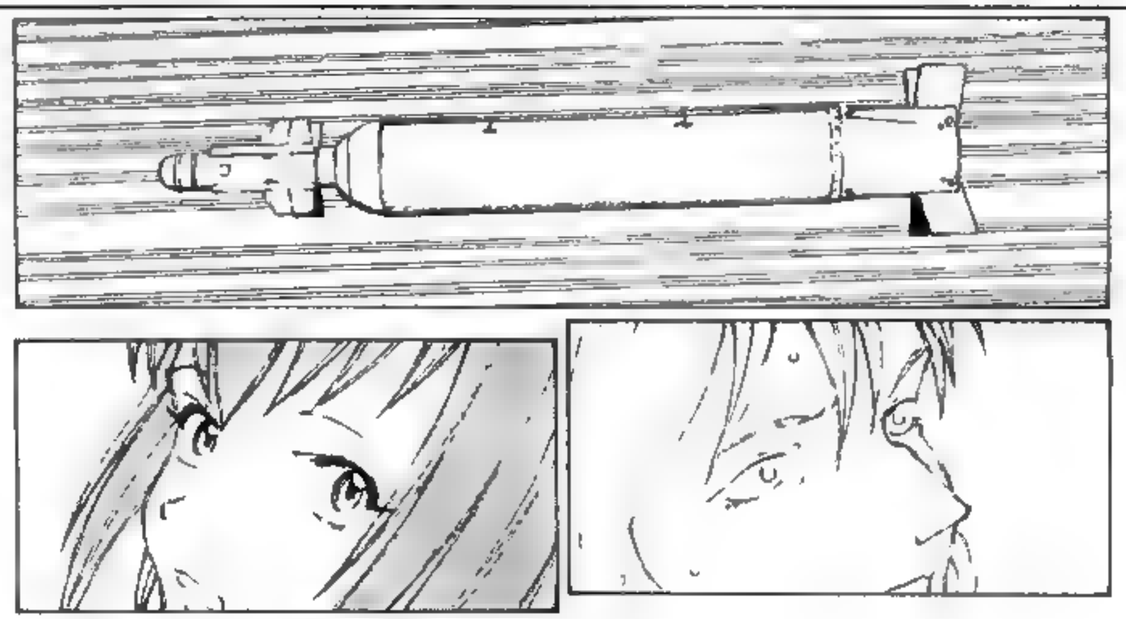
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?

COME, LET'S GO HOME!

IF YOU GO ON LIKE THIS...




ROCKETS?!



YAWN

LOOKS LIKE I WON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED THIS TIME.

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ARGH!

WHA...

WHERE'S THE GUY WHO'S ALWAYS CAUSING PROBLEMS?

GONE OUT.

AH...

SEARCH THE PLACE.

THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER!

HE'S NOT HERE.

HMM?

WHAT DO WE DO WITH HER?

DAMN IT!

DON'T TELL ME WE WASTED OUR TIME COMING?

BUT SHE IS...

DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

HMM...

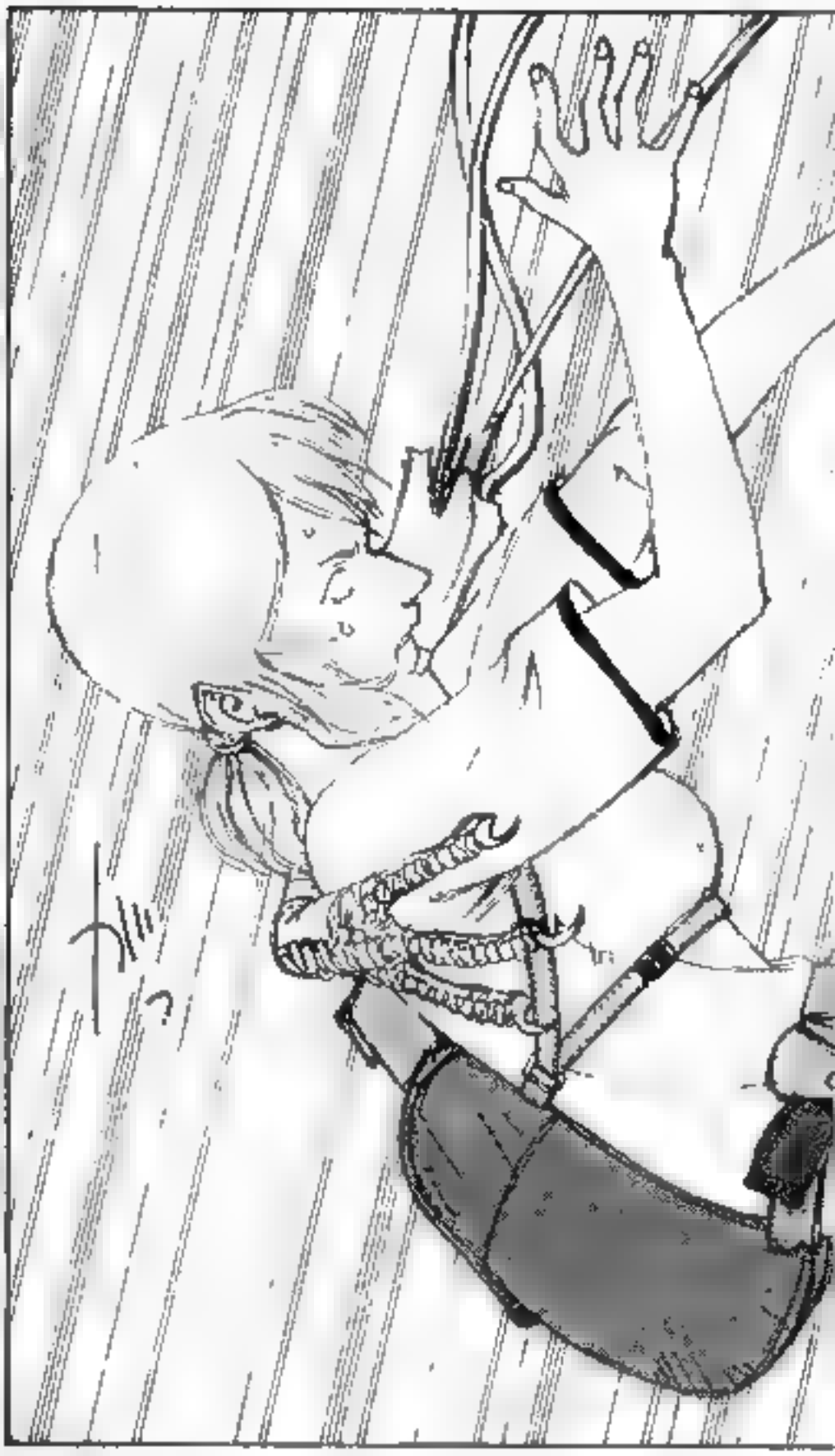
AH!

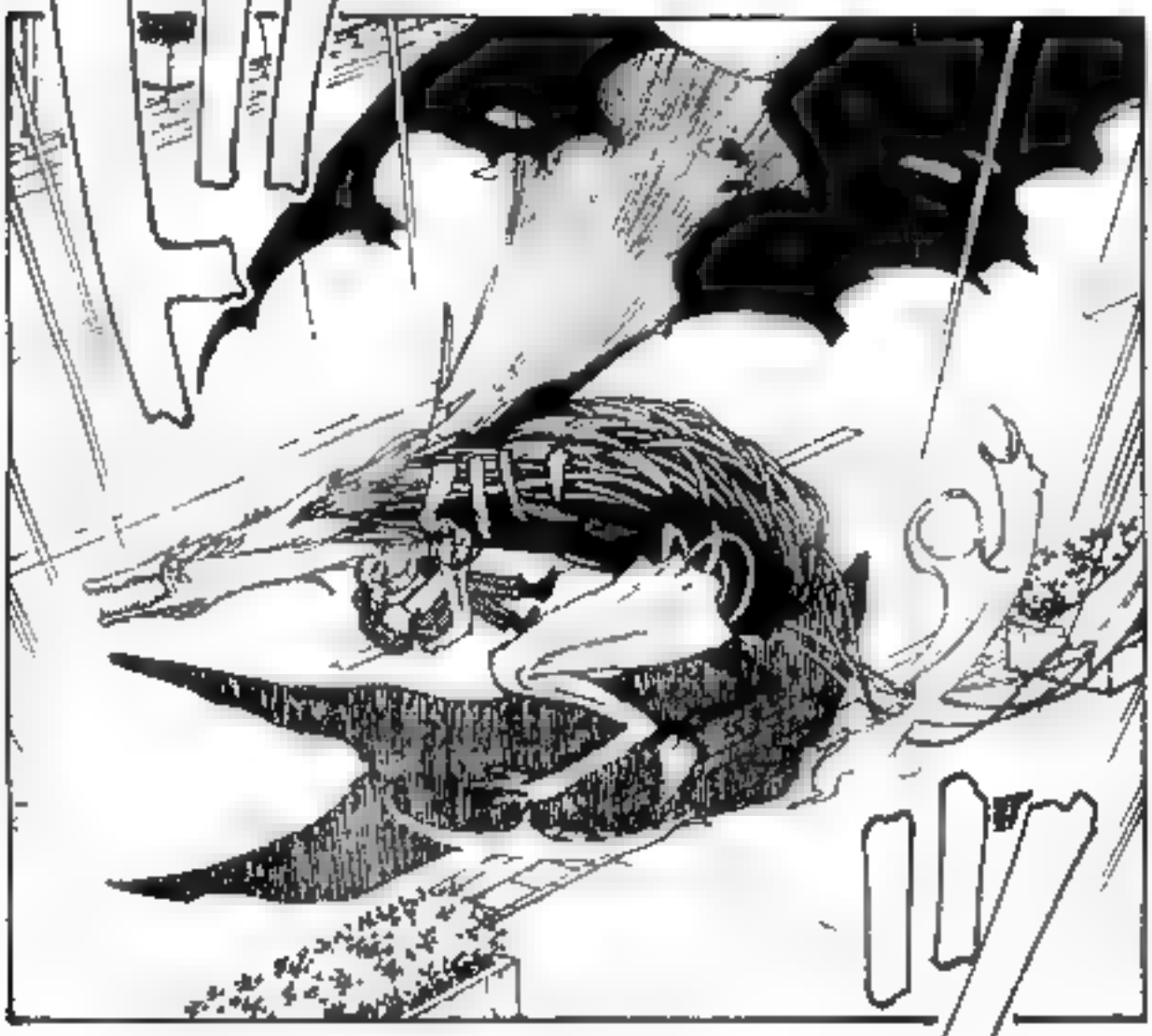
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT!

WAAAH!!

JANE!

HOSHIMARU ...





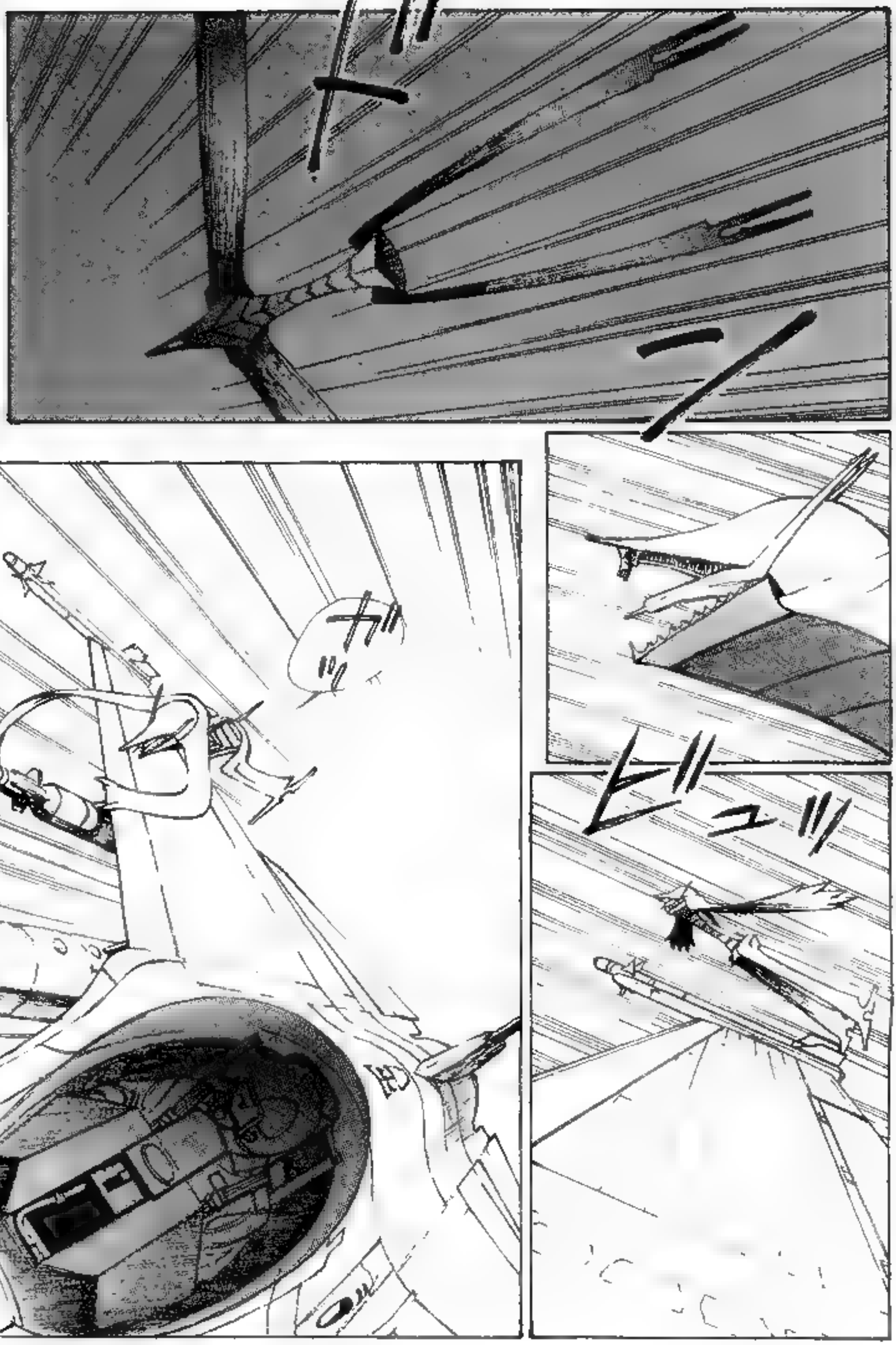
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE HERE!
WAKE UP! TIME FOR YOU TO GET MOVING!
NORIO!

THEY'RE USING CLUSTER BOMBS!

THEY'RE F-16S! I SPOTTED FOUR AIRCRAFT!

DESTROY THE WARHEADS AND THE GUIDANCE UNITS!

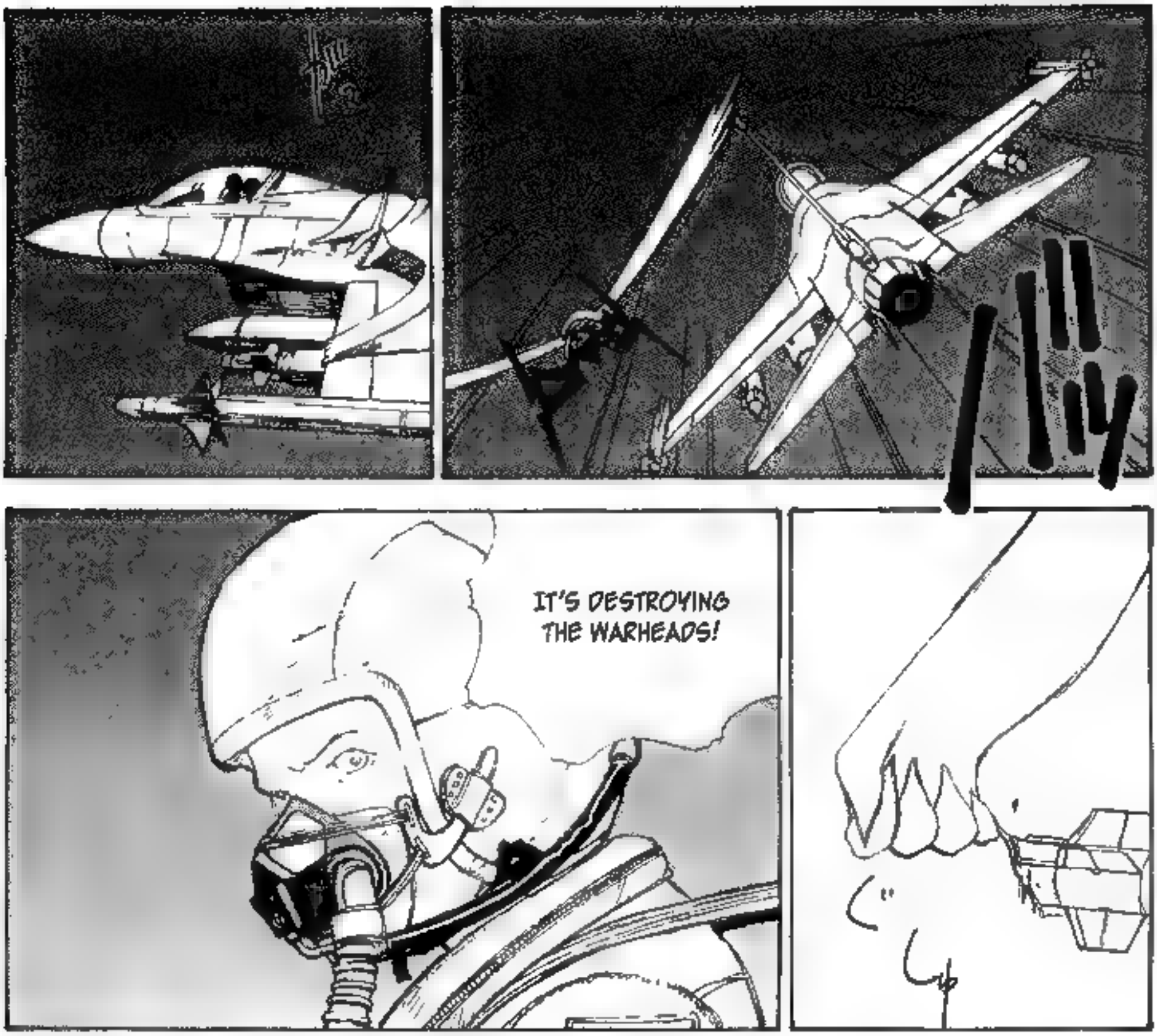
RENDER THEM HARMLESS BEFORE THEY CAN DROP THEM!

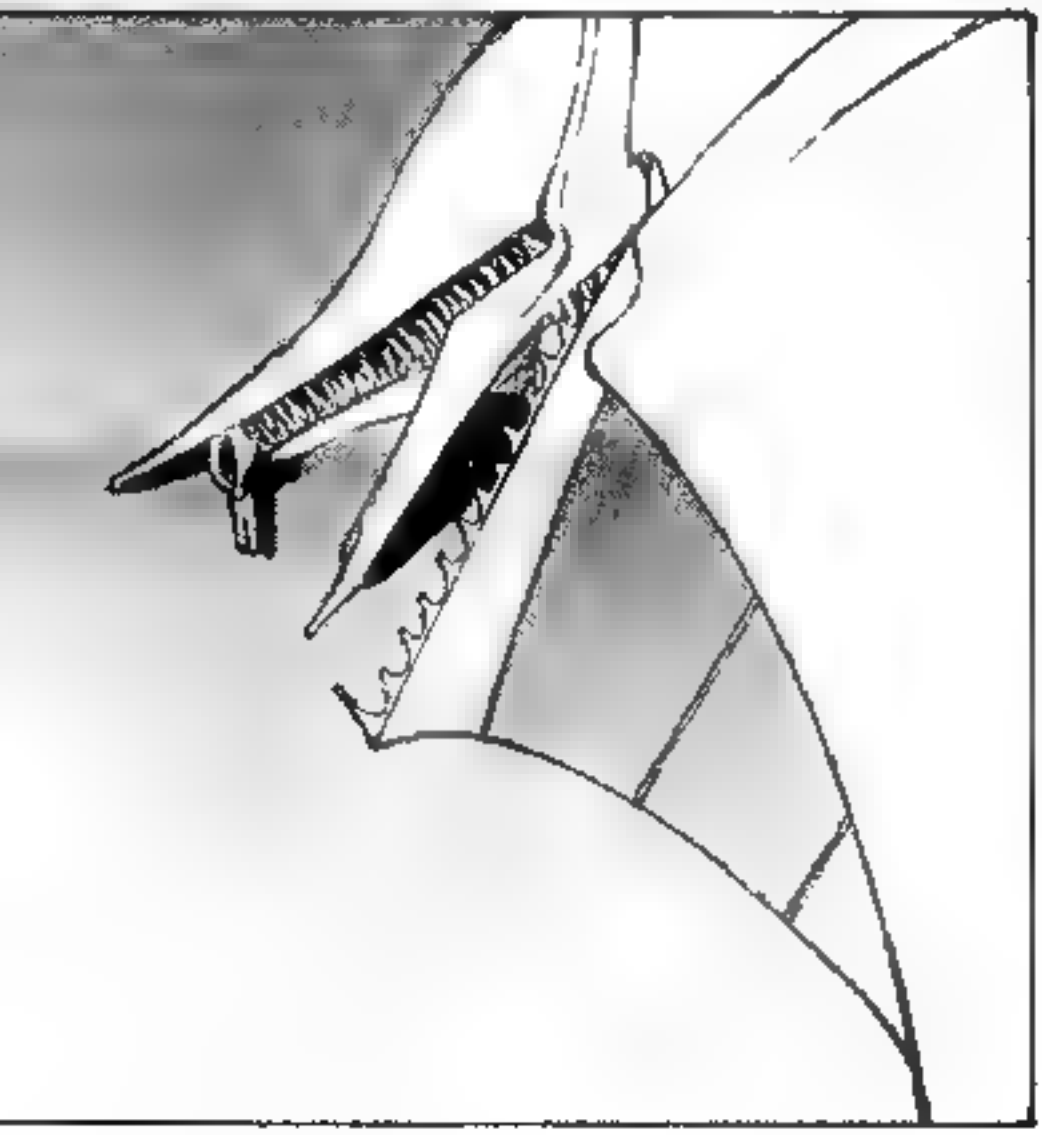


A WEIRD CREATURE IS SCREWING AROUND ON THE WING!

IS IT THE TARGET?!

I HEARD IT COULDN'T FLY.


IT'S DESTROYING THE WARHEADS!



NEXT ONE, NORIO!

CAREFUL!

AH...

A BOY?

...I would be able to take care of them easily.

If I could call back Vagina Dentata...

...to say nothing about Shiina.

But then Tsurumaru would be in danger...

Can I make it?

I must!

...I'll bring back Vagina Dentata as soon as possible.

First I'll disarm all the planes...

...and then...

...THE GAY.

CALL...

DAMN, THIS IS CRAP.

I'M LEAVING FIRST.

WHY? THERE'LL BE NICE VIDEOS!

ISN'T HE A BIT TOO MUCH?

HE LIKES THIS KIND OF THING.

GOOD!
ANOTHER
TWO TO GO!

I'M LOOKING FOR ROBERT.

YOU CAN GO.

...DAN-GEROUS HERE!

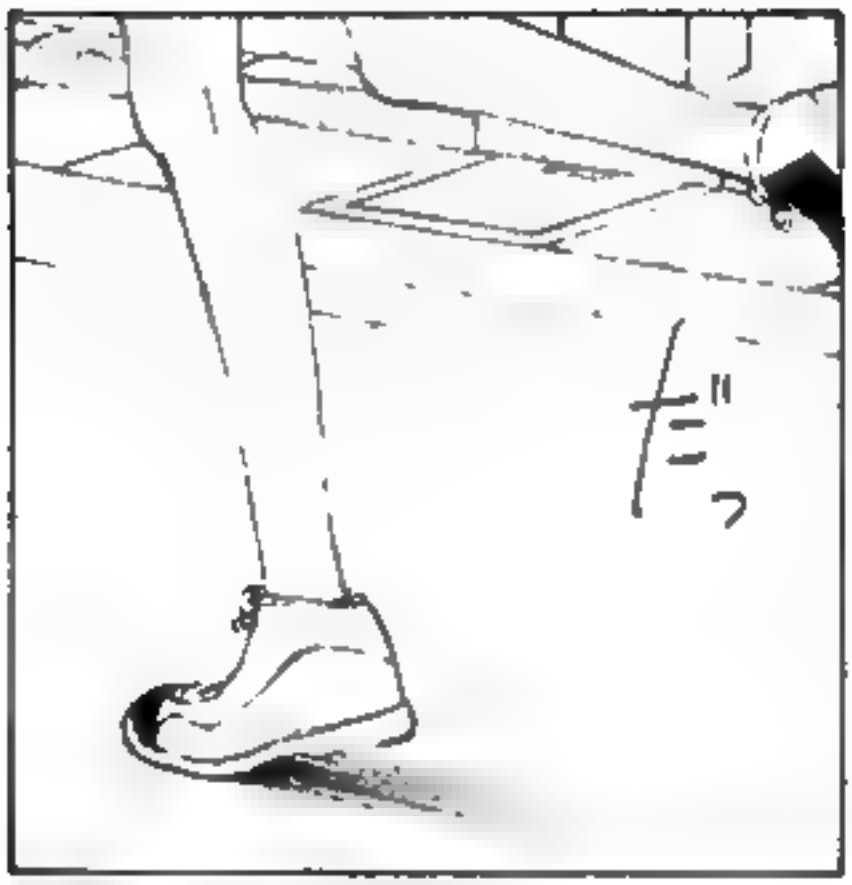
LET'S GO! IT'S...

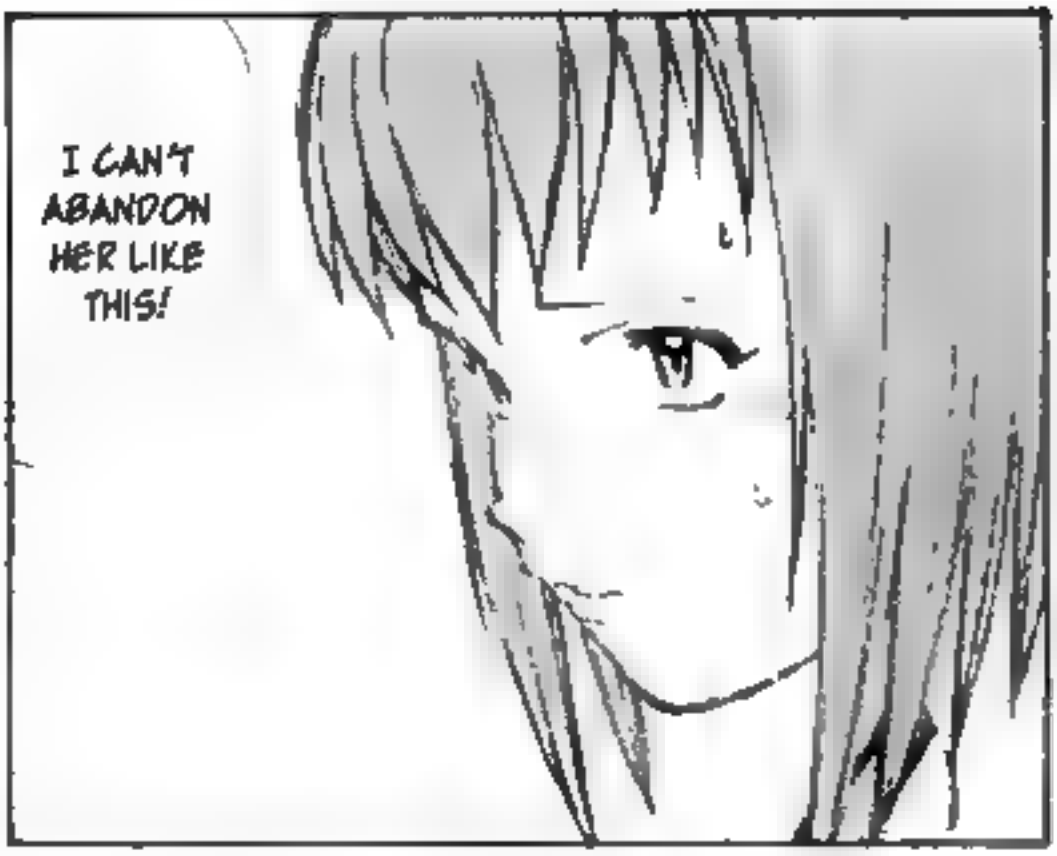
YOU ALRIGHT?!

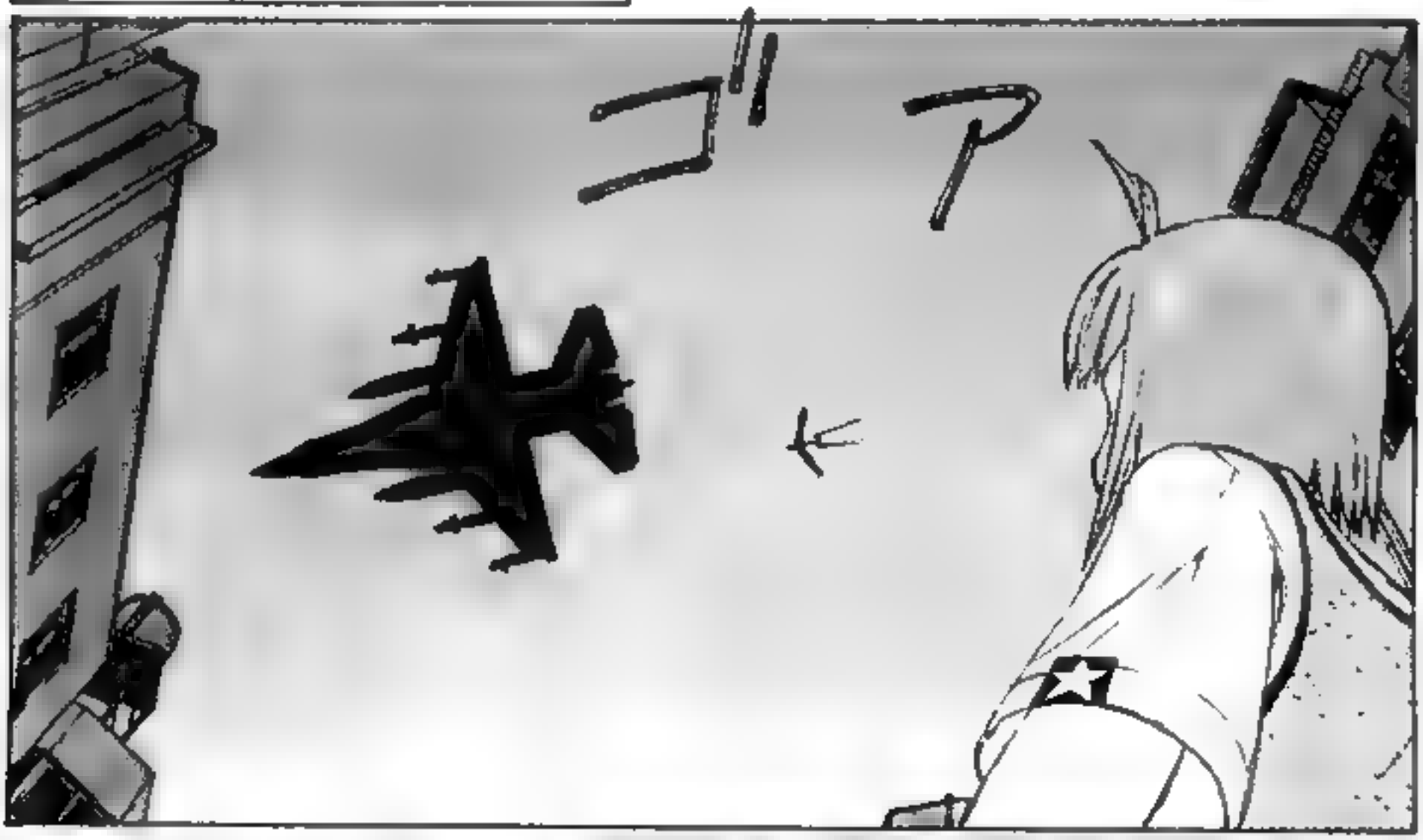
JANE!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

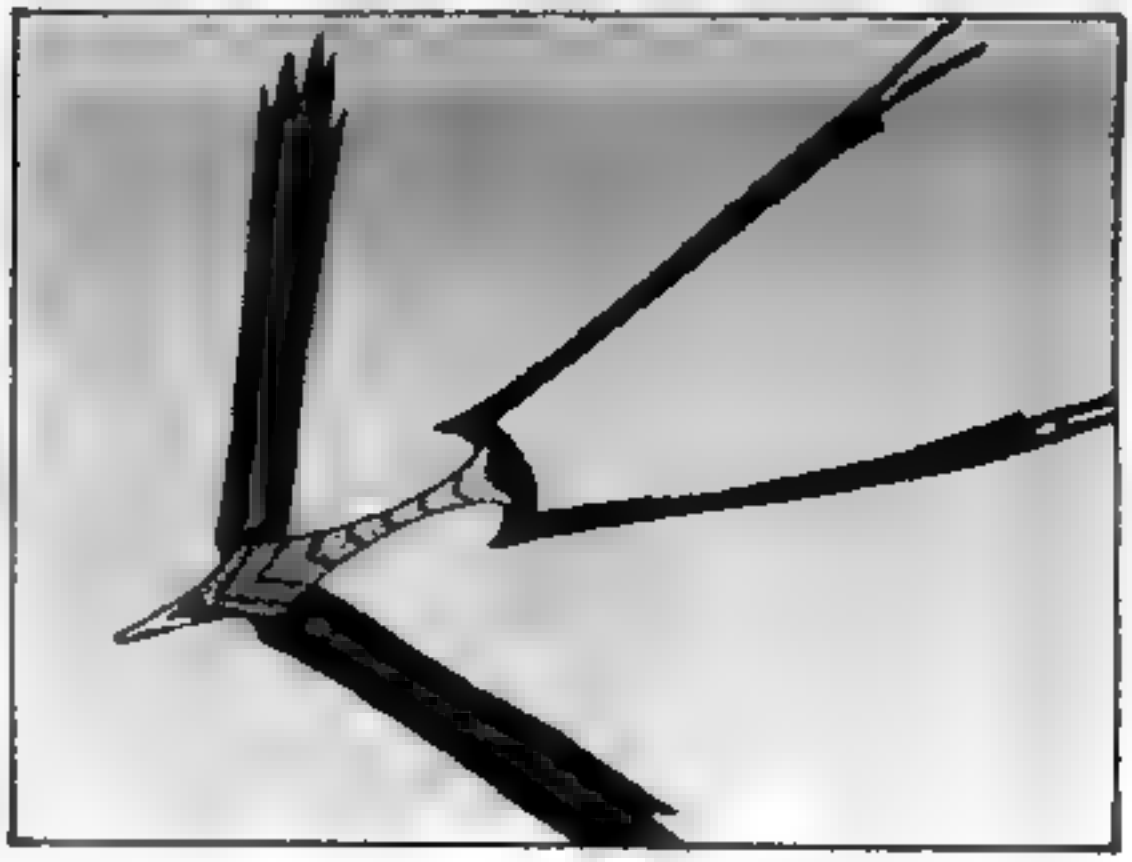
GO!




I CAN'T ABANDON HER LIKE THIS!



NORIO!



A FRIEND OF MINE!

WHO'S FIGHTING WITH THE F-16S?

THEN...

...TSURUMARU CAN'T BE FAR OFF.

TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE AND THAT'S IT!

ONE MORE!

AH?

WHO DID THAT?
THE WOUND ON THE FACE...

...I KICKED HIM.

THAT'S FROM SHINOGI'S BLADE, BUT...

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ドゴッ

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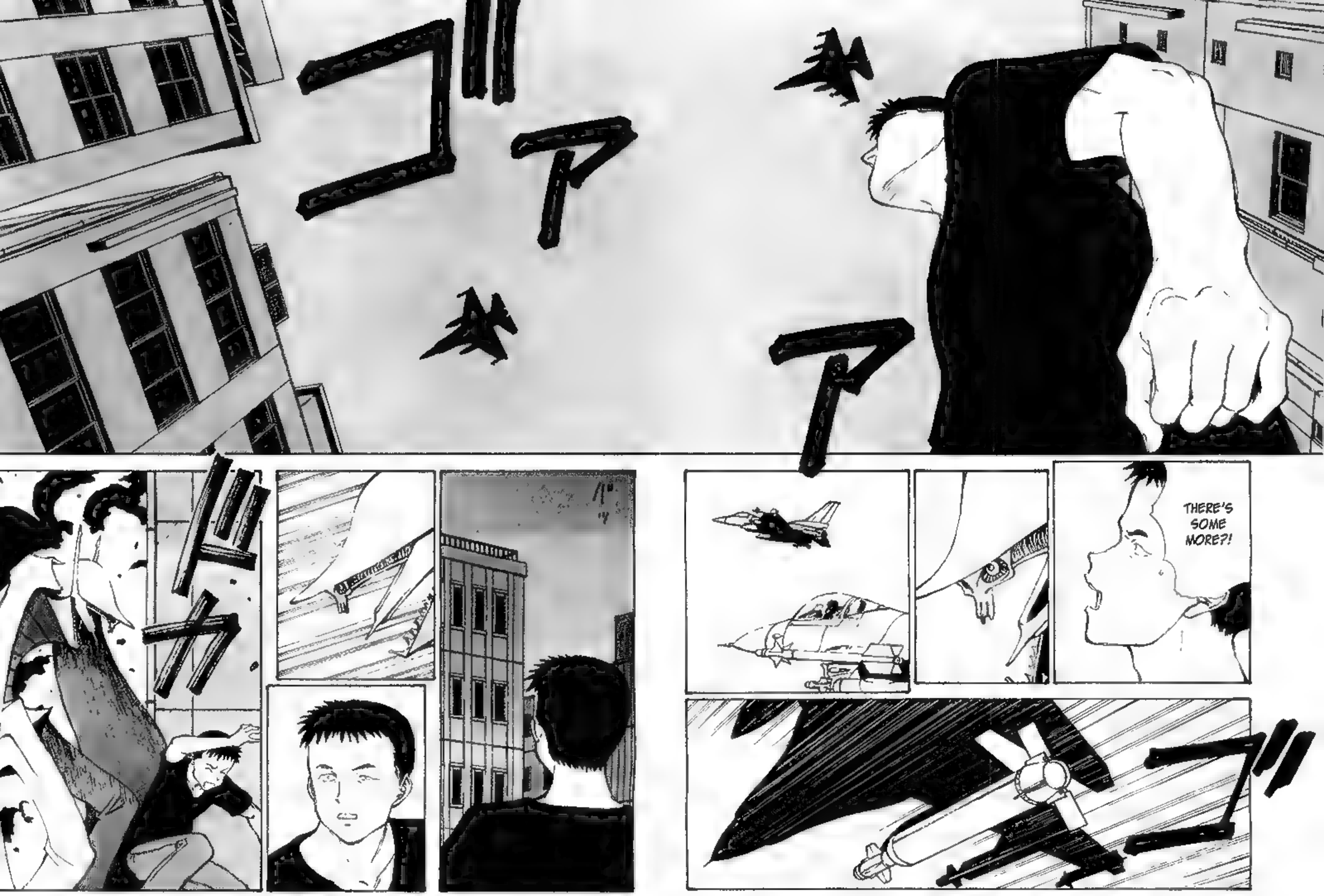
NOBODY'S ALLOWED TO BREAK HIM EXCEPT FOR ME, UNDERSTOOD?

I LIKE HIM!

...this guy's bad...

Oh man...

Tsurumaru...


THERE'S SOME MORE?!

With a bone dragon...

Horrible!

...in seconds...

...I could...

I don't know if this will end well.

Tsurumaru ...

...I won't make it in time?

Maybe...

I must stay strong!

No!

I can still do it!

It still can work!

...help Tsuru-maru!

I must...

NORIO!

SAVE SHIINA, NOT ME!

SAVE SHIINA!!

...more than your own life...

I understand, you love Shiina...

...I'm pitiful.

Somehow...

...right from the start.

Even though I knew it...

I have to take care of this quickly!

I can't take too much time here!

...AM I HEARING NOTHING?

WHY...

...the life of a stranger isn't worth anything anymore.

When you've thrown your own life onto the scales...

THEN CRY!

SCREAM!

IT HURTS, DOESN'T IT?

DOESN'T IT HURT?

...do you that favour!

I won't...

ANOTHER THREE PLANES!

WELL, THEN LET'S TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

YOU'RE GRITTING YOUR TEETH, HUH?

...and loved ones...

You've surely got family too...

CRY!

SCREAM!

HURTS, DOESN'T IT?

THAT'S GOT TO HURT!

MISSED!

WON'T I GET TO HEAR YOUR SWEET VOICE SOON?

BLEURGH

YOU'RE STILL GRITTING YOUR TEETH!

...doing here...

What am I...

ARE YOU MAKING SOMETHING?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?

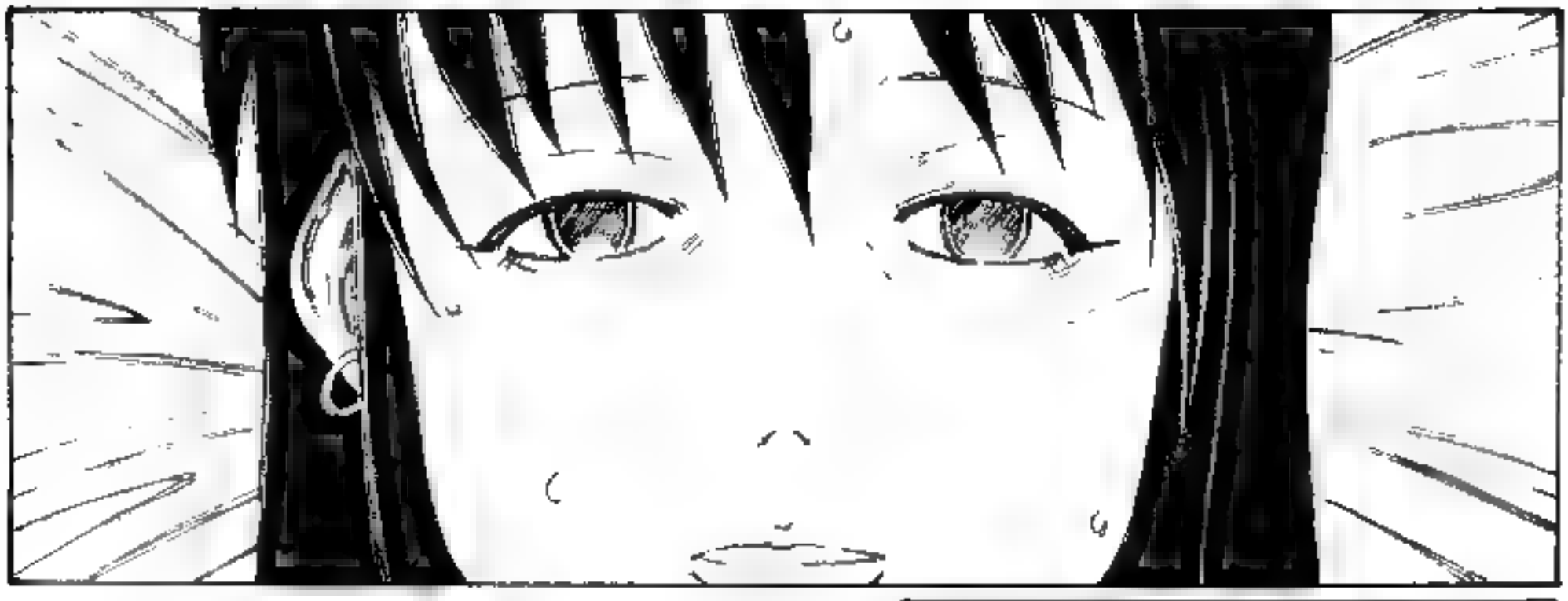
ATTACK, NORIO!

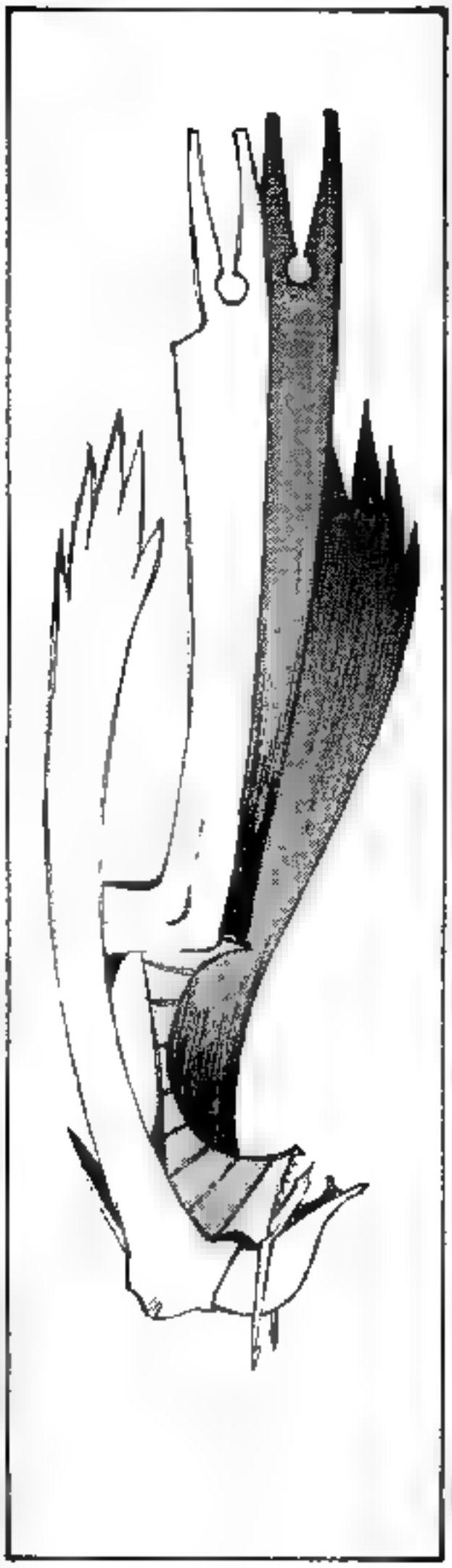
ONE MORE LEFT!

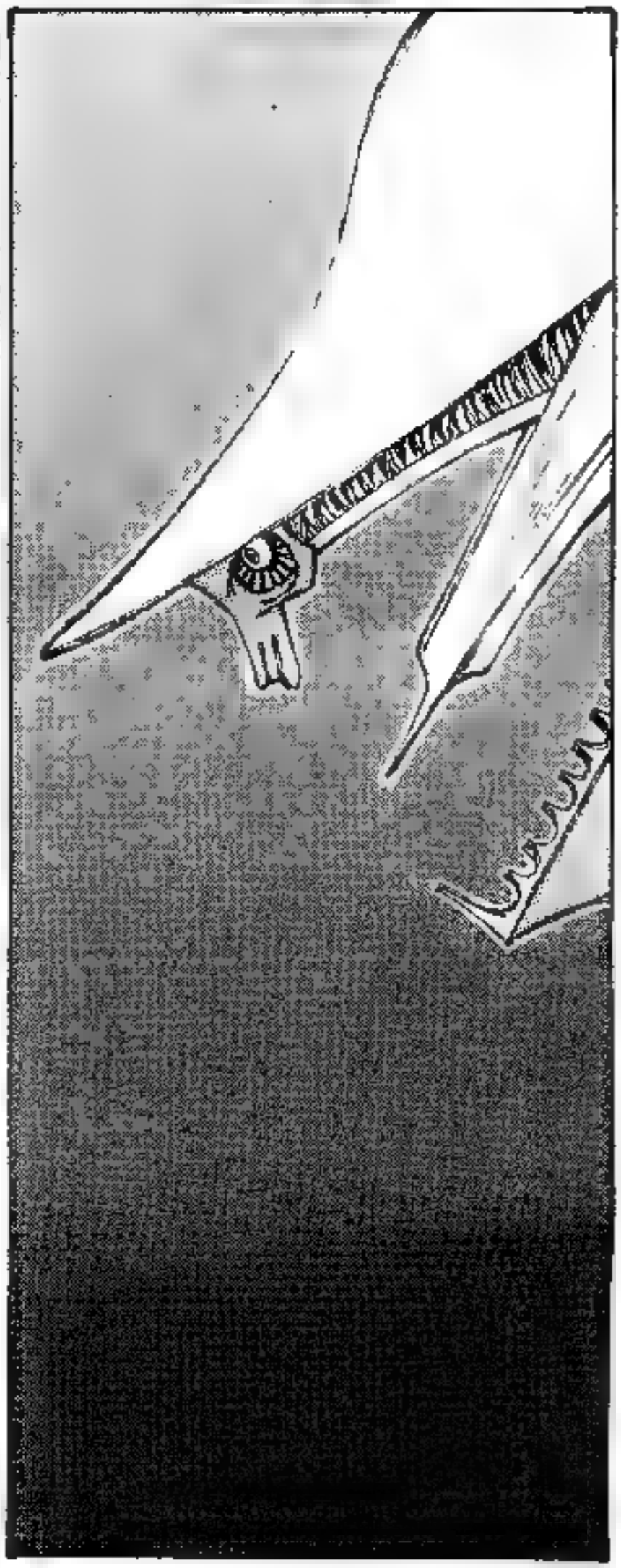
HE'S NOT BREATHING ANYMORE...

HMM?

EVERYTHING OKAY?







DON'T FEEL LIKE HELPING ME...

...BUILD A NEW WORLD?

MEN ARE ONLY THERE TO HELP.

TO "BEAR" IS THE ROLE OF WOMEN.

YOU DON'T LIKE WOMEN?

IN WHAT WAY?

TOO BAD...

THEN HELP ME!

THAT'S HOW WE'LL DO IT! IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?

...TURNING RED?

WHY ARE YOU...

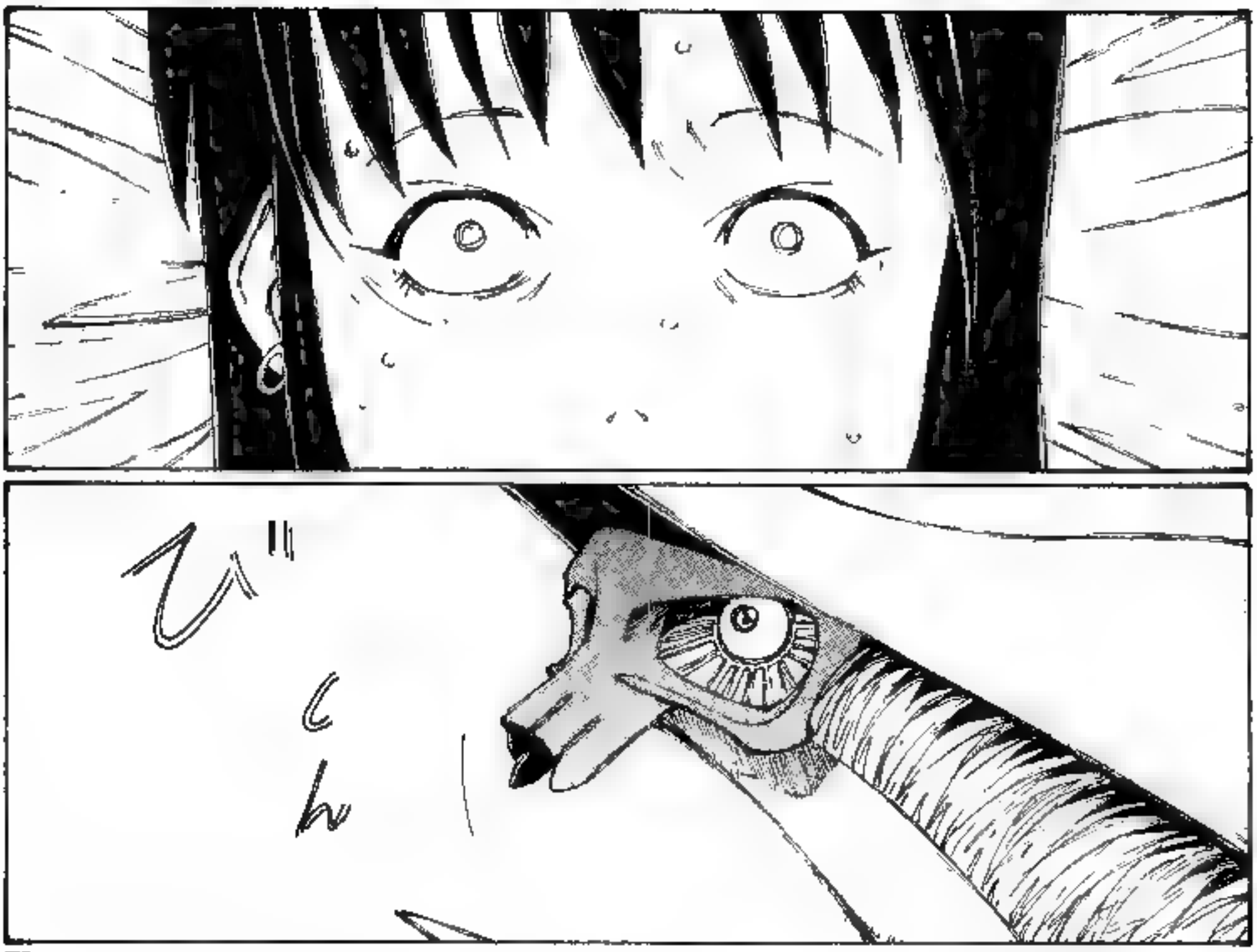
THAT'S TOO FAST FOR ME!

I'LL WAKE YOU UP THEN!

YOUR FACE IS TURNING ALL WHITE!

NORIO!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!


Where...
Where am I...?!
Tsurumaru...?
NORIO!

YOU STILL HAVE TO SWEAT A BIT MORE!

DON'T FALL ASLEEP!

...I can't fall asleep yet!

Exactly...

...I'm not a girl after all!

For Tsurumaru...

...for the best.

But maybe that's...

Shiina is something special of course.

That's why you always tolerated me at your side, rather any other girl!

Just a little bit more.

I can still do it...

I can still...

...thankful to this pig!

I have to be...

A DRAGON?!

...Fate doesn't want me to succeed...

...in transferring my soul to you...

Sorry...

...Vagina Dentata...

SPIT IT OUT!

STILL GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

HMM?

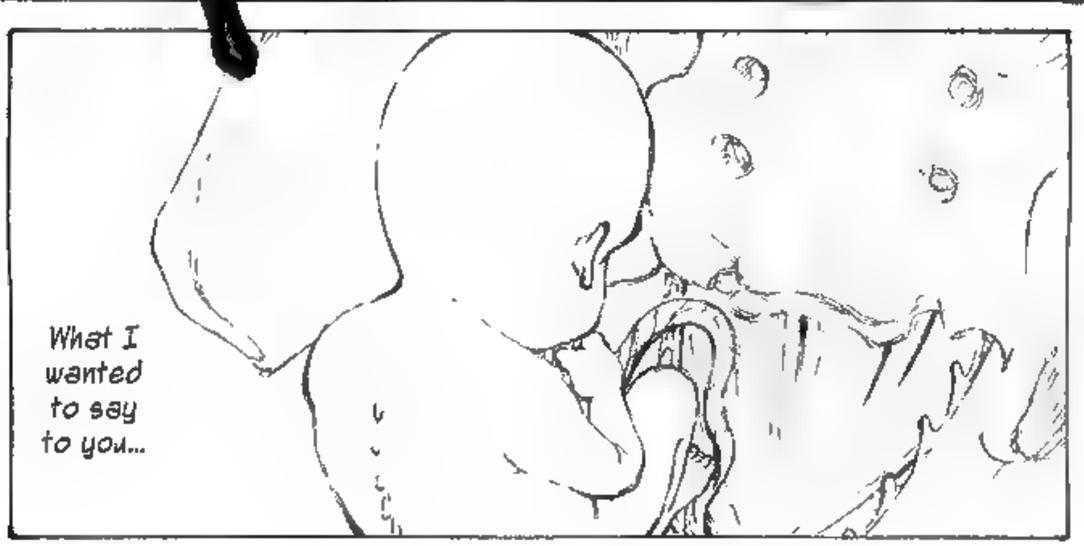
...Tsurumaru...

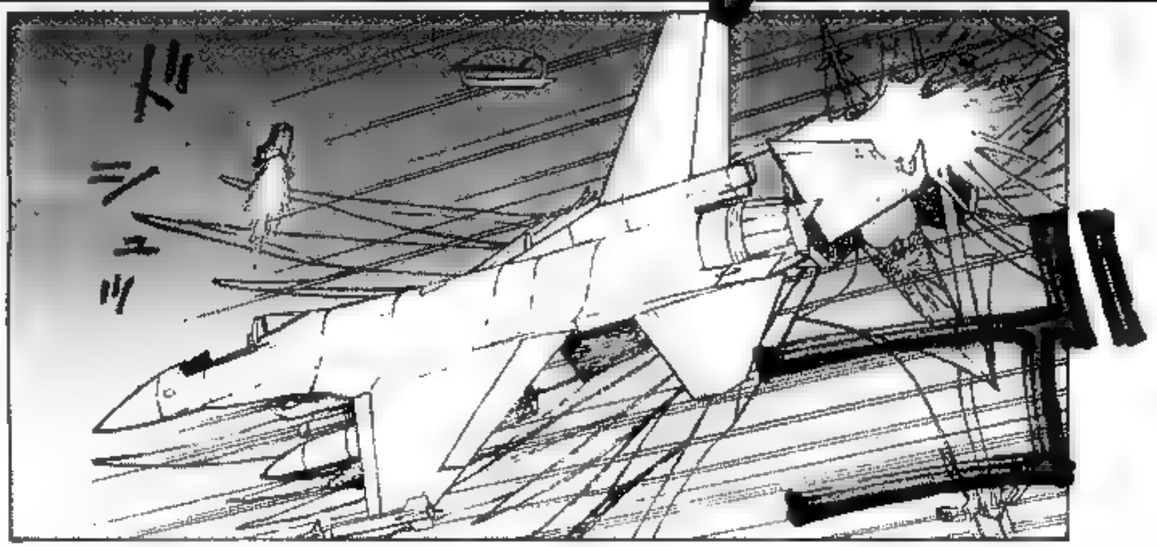
Sorry...

WAAAH!

...I can't help you any more...

I think, From now on...


What I wanted to say to you...



Hmm...

...I...

...I CAN'T TELL YOU...

...ANY...

...MORE...

ズッ

Shadow Star - Narutaru

Translated by Katydid
Edited by Jinchi

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

TSURU-MARU!!

SHIINA!

NORIO?

WHERE IS NORIO?!

SOMETHING'S WRONG!

DON'T KNOW!

ゴア

LET'S RUN, SHIINA!

THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP ON BOMBING!

THERE'S STILL SOME MORE?!

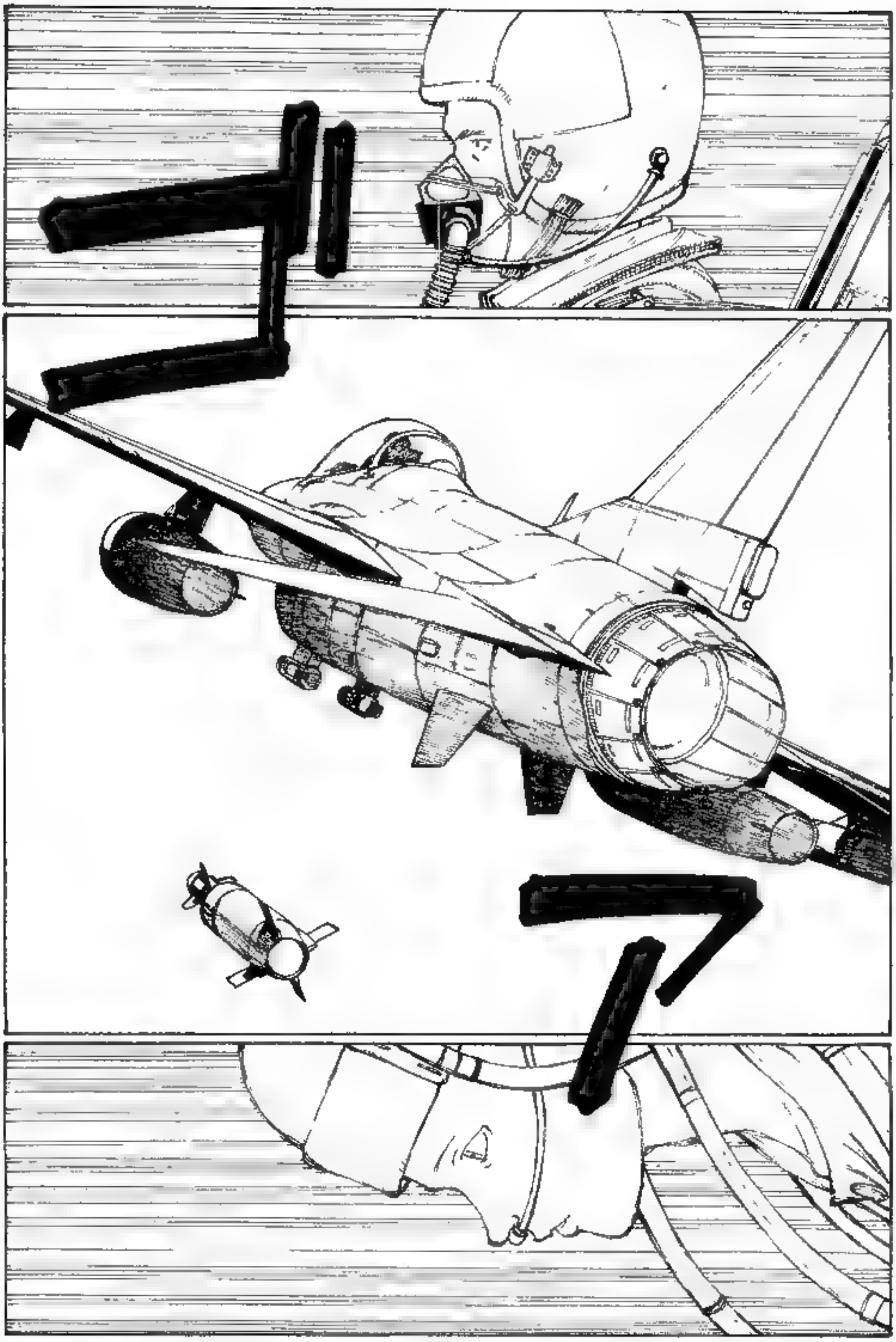
OTOHIME?

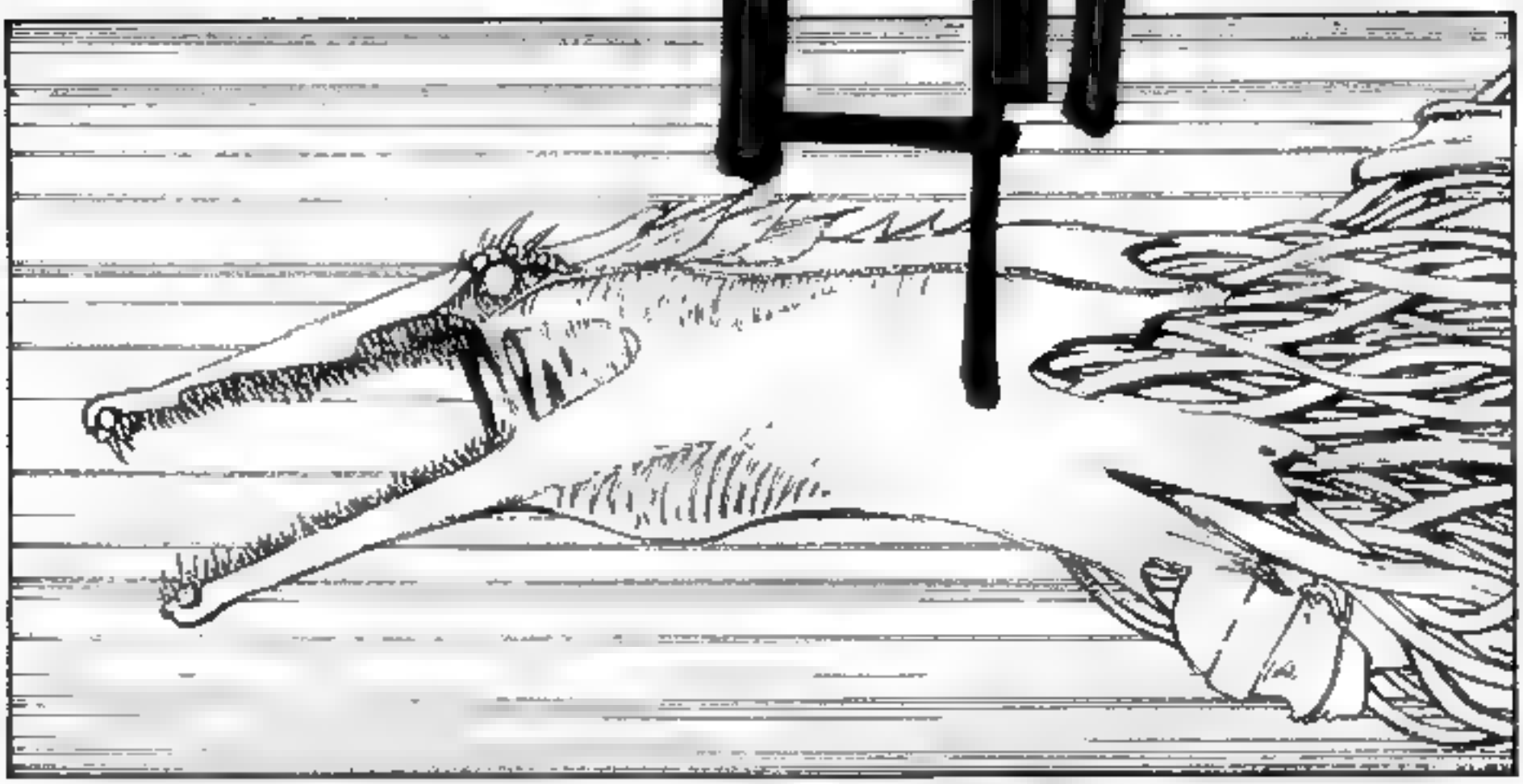
BUT THIS DRAGON LADY...

B...BUT...

OTOHIME WON'T COME TO AID US.
OR TO BE ACCURATE, SHE CAN'T COME...

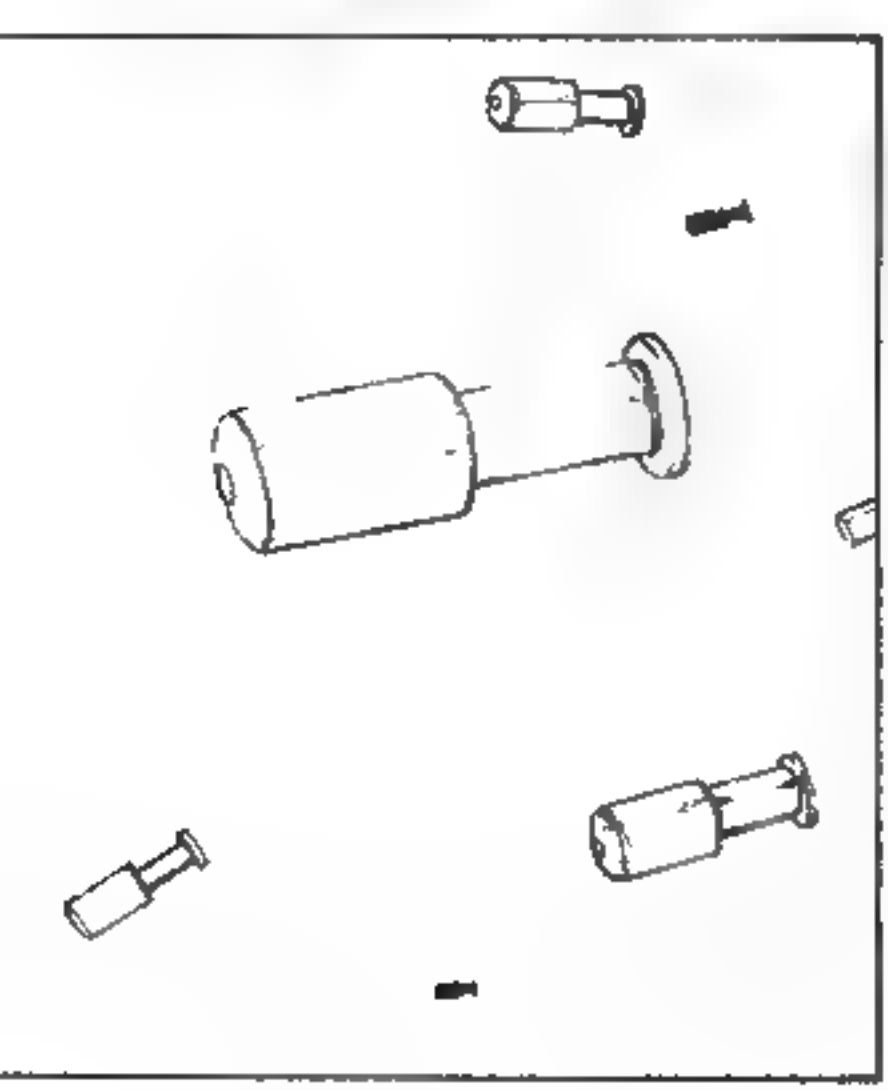
...SOMETHING TO DO...
...WITH HUMANS!
...IF IT HAS...

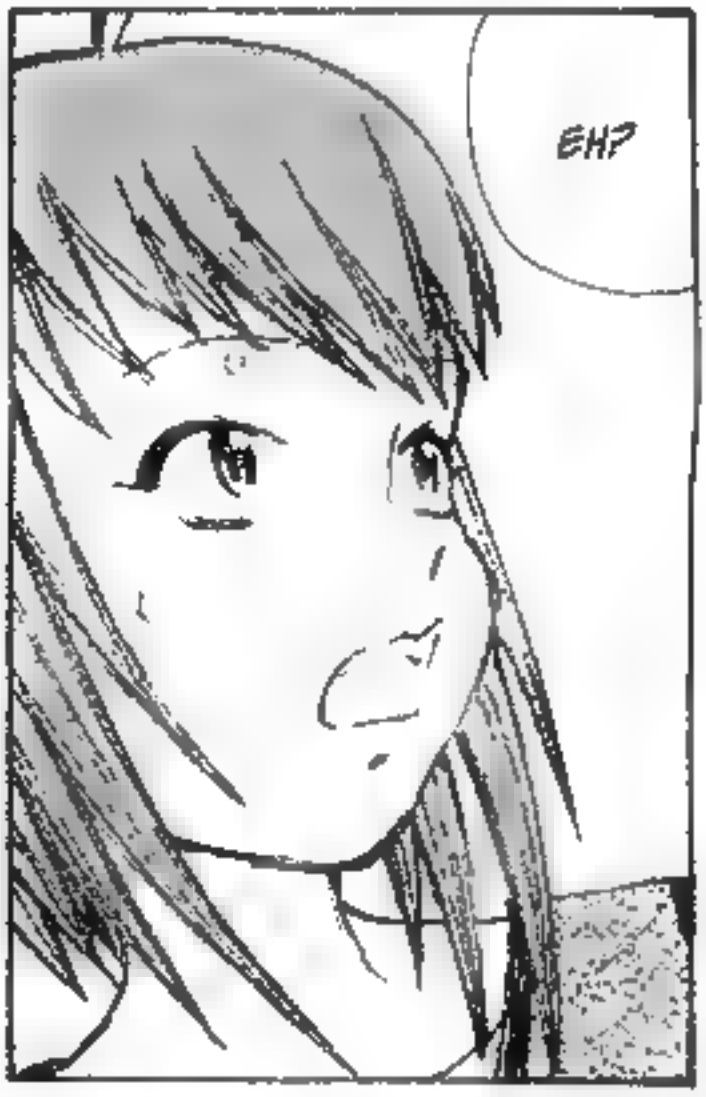




CAREFUL! GET INTO COVER!
SHIINA!

JANE!




EH?

PAH!

JANE!

JANE!

SHIINA! COME BACK!

GIVE ME A BIT MORE TIME, NORIO!

AH...

SHIINA!

I AM HER PROTECTOR.

YOU...

BUT...

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, CHILD!

JANE! EVERYTHING OKAY?!

FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN'T BE CAUGHT IF YOU'RE TOUCHING IRON.

THERE ARE ONLY SLIGHT DIFFER-ENCES.

...ARE DIFFERENT IN AMERICA, AREN'T THEY?

BUT THE RULES FOR BLIND MAN'S BLUFF...

SO IT'S NOT BLIND MAN'S BLUFF THEN?

WHY AM I NOTICING IT ONLY NOW?

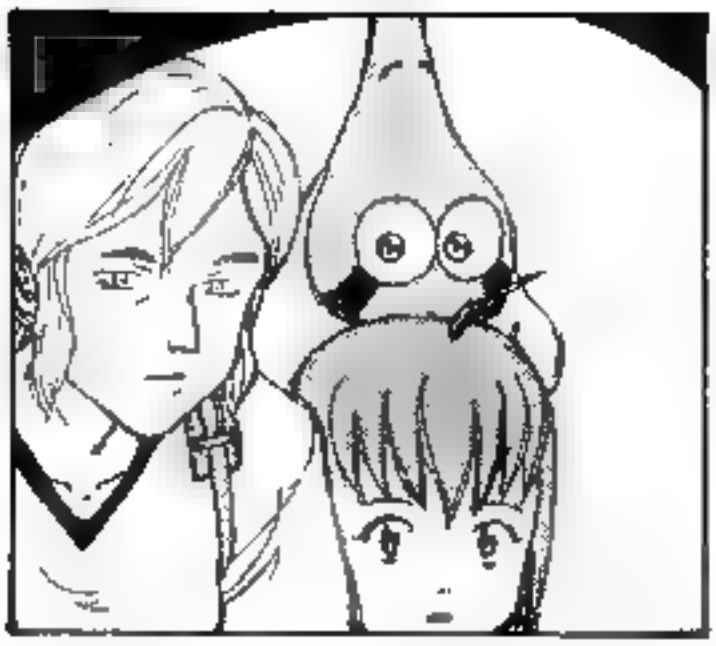
I'VE HAD A BAD FEELING EVER SINCE HE JUMPED INTO THE RIVER!

BACK!

WHERE...?

IT WAS NO BLIND MAN'S BLUFF...

EH...



ROBERT!

ROBERT!

I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!

HURRY, TO A HOSPITAL!

WHAT'S WRONG?

HIS LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM IS GONE!

OH MY GOD!

THE FEELING OF TUMULT IS GONE...

SEND AN ALARM TO ALL THE F-16 RADIOS!

STOP THE BOMBARDMENT.

TARGET OBJECT NO LONGER ACTIVE.

SEND IN THE GROUND TROOPS.

A SOMEHOW SOFT FEELING...

I'M REALLY HAPPILY TOUCHED!

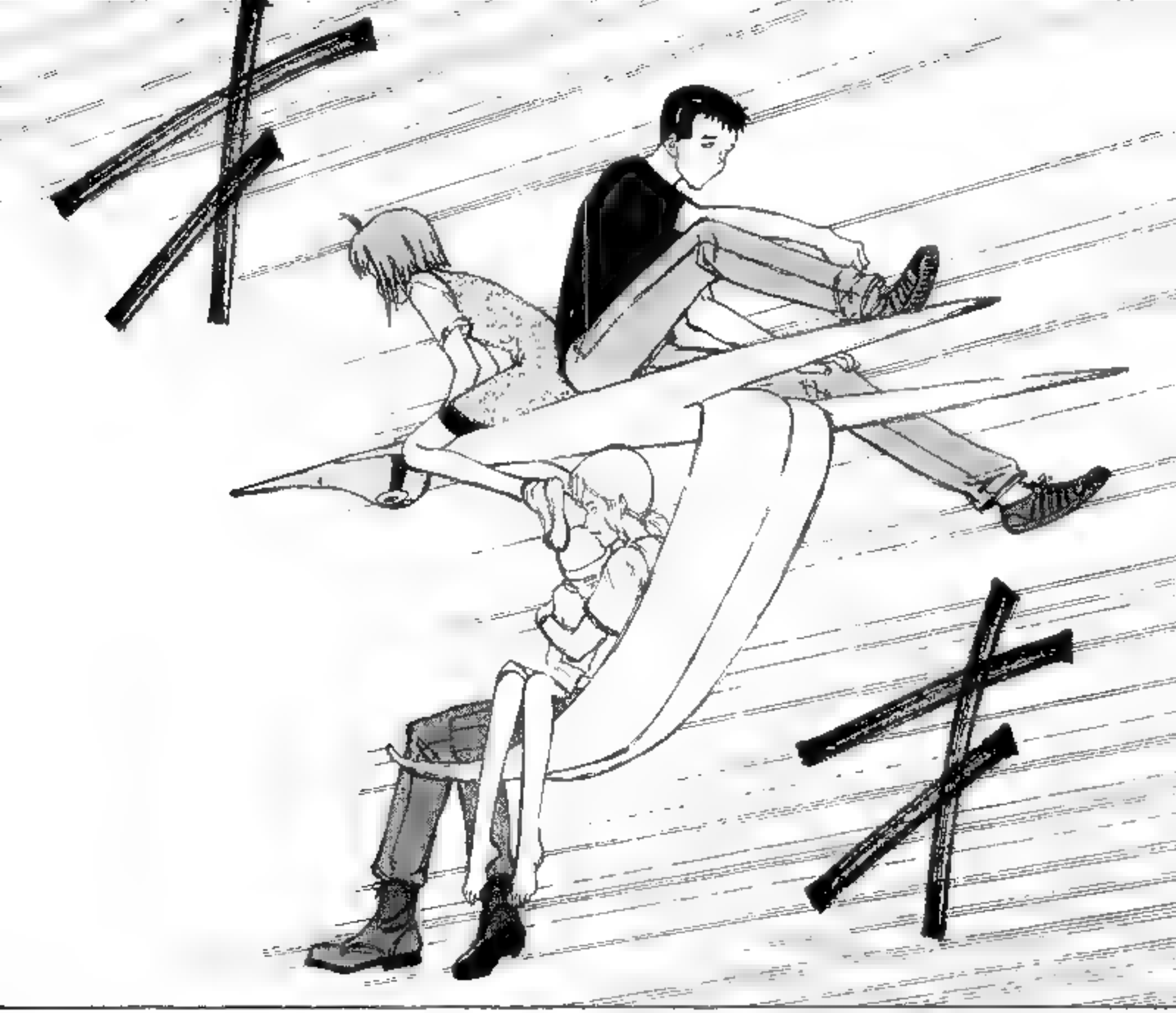
I'M TOTALLY CALM.

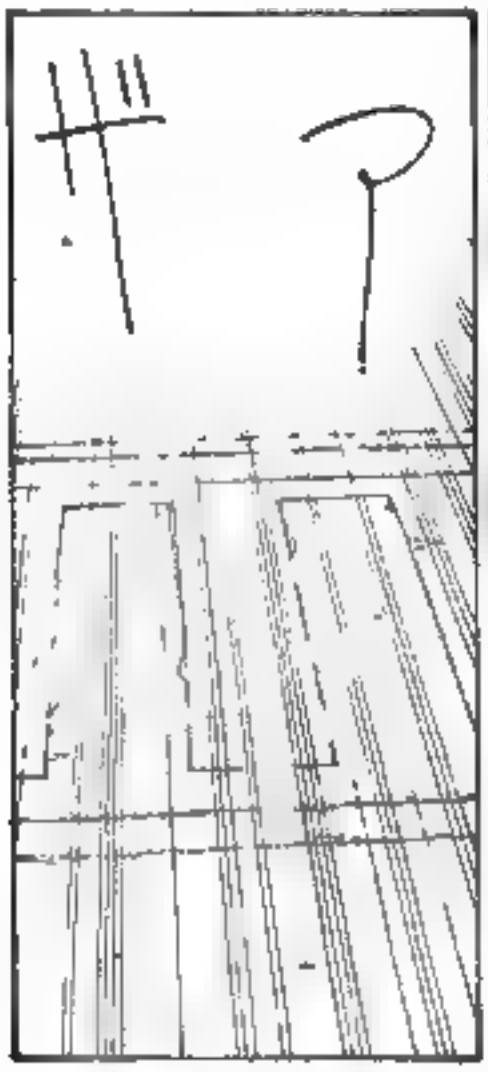
A TUMULT OF VARIOUS FEELINGS...

STRANGE...

MAYBE...

ARE THOSE ROBERT'S FEELINGS?





LEAD THE WAY!

GIVE IT YOUR ALL, HOSHIMARU!

LET'S FLY THERE FIRST THEN!
MY CAR IS OUTSIDE THE SEALED-OFF AREA!

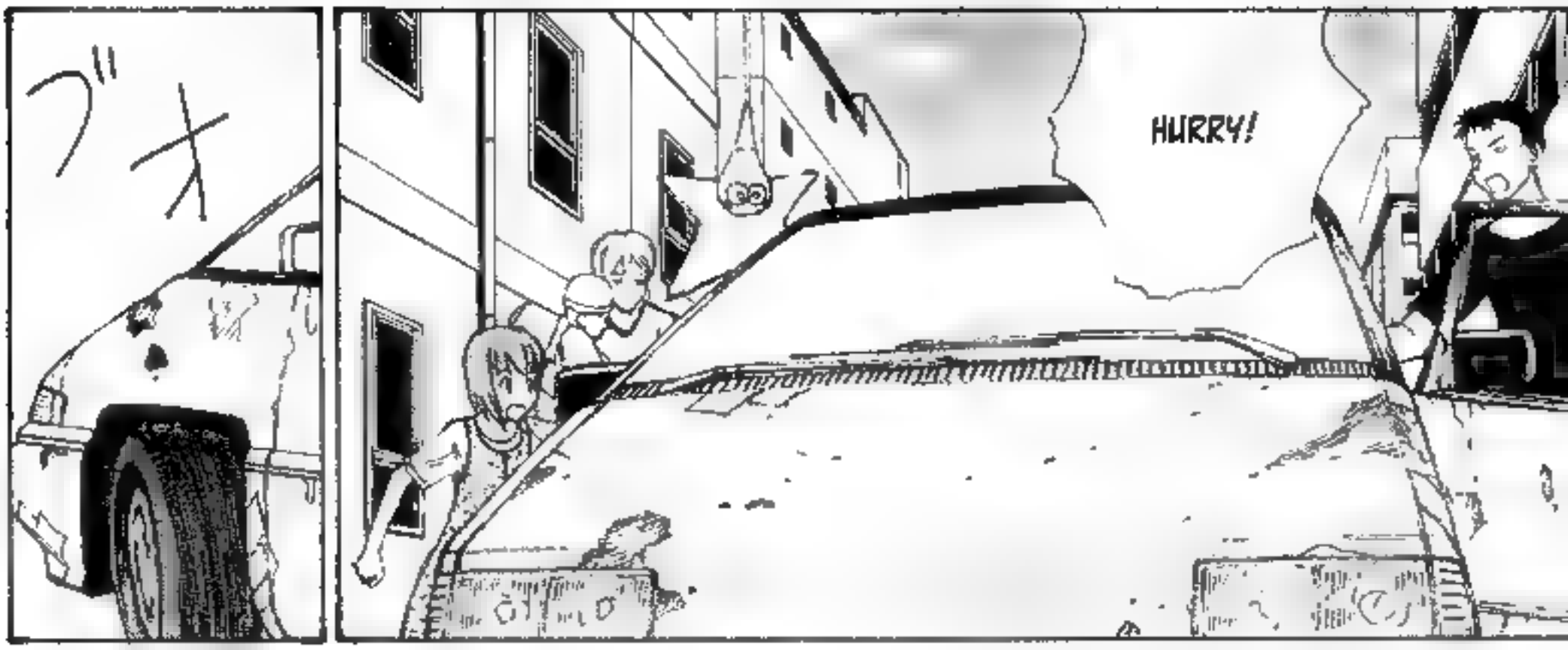
AH...

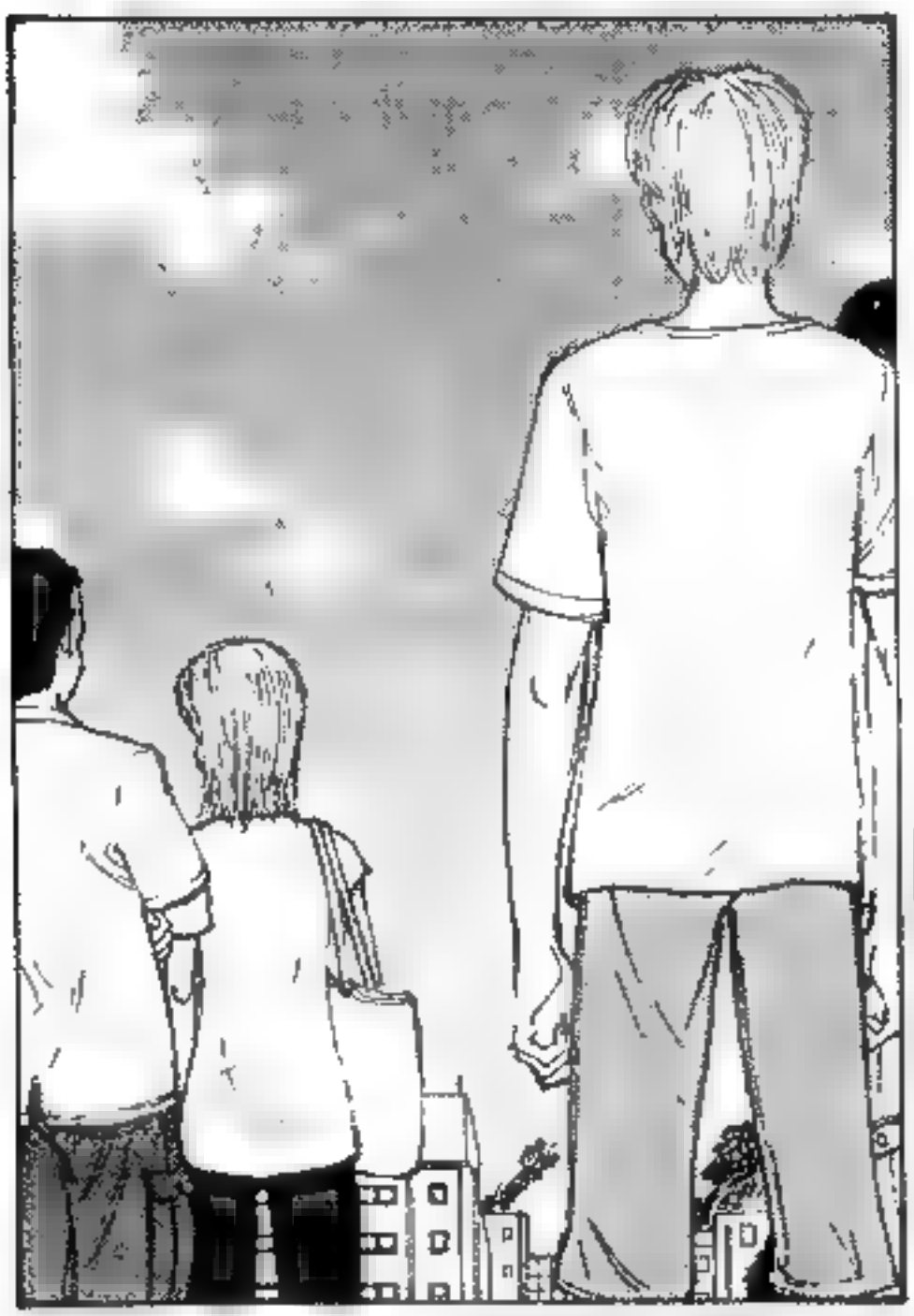
WHAT IS IT?

HOSHIMARU!

CONTINUE!

IT'S OKAY.


ゴォ
HURRY!



THEN EVERYONE WILL SEE US!
CAN'T WE FLY THERE WITH HOSHIMARU?

HMM...

I'M...

...A BAD MOTHER...

...OUTSIDE TOGETHER, HASN'T IT?

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS...

...SINCE WE WERE LAST...

SIMPLY WAITING FOR DEATH...

...OR CLINGING ON TO LIFE?

ROBERT...

WHAT KIND OF LIFE SHOULD I HAVE CHOSEN?

I THINK YOU'VE DECIDED TO WAIT FOR DEATH...

BUT I CAN'T STAND
SUCH A LIFE!

PLEASE PULL OVER.

WE'LL BE AT THE CLINIC SOON.

...PREPARING MYSELF FOR THIS FOR A YEAR... IT'S OKAY...

I'VE BEEN...

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

THE NUMBER PLATE IS FAKED, SO WE PRACTICALLY DON'T EXIST!

PLEASE TAKE MY CAR.

THAT'S A BIG HELP!

I'M SORRY TO HAVE PUT YOU IN DANGER.

SHIINA!

WE'LL GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS HERE.

WE STILL HAVE SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF.

...I BELIEVE...

HE WANTED TO PLAY ONE LAST TIME...

ROBERT...

...IS NOT ANGRY WITH YOU.

...LOVED YOU!

ROBERT...

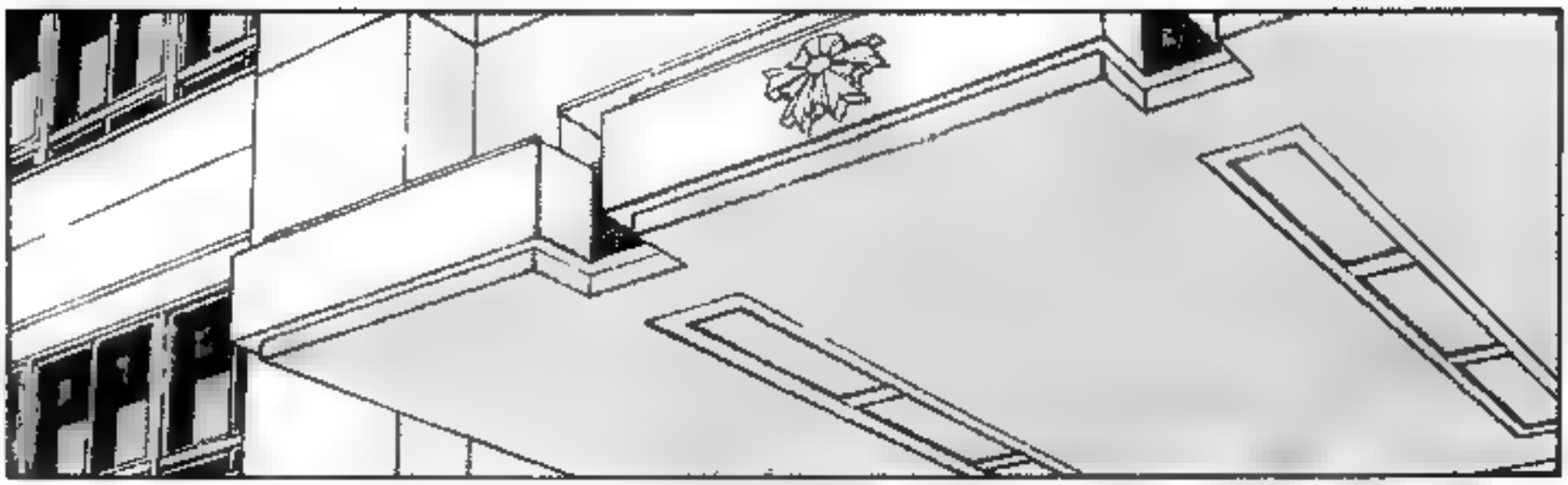
7"

YES.

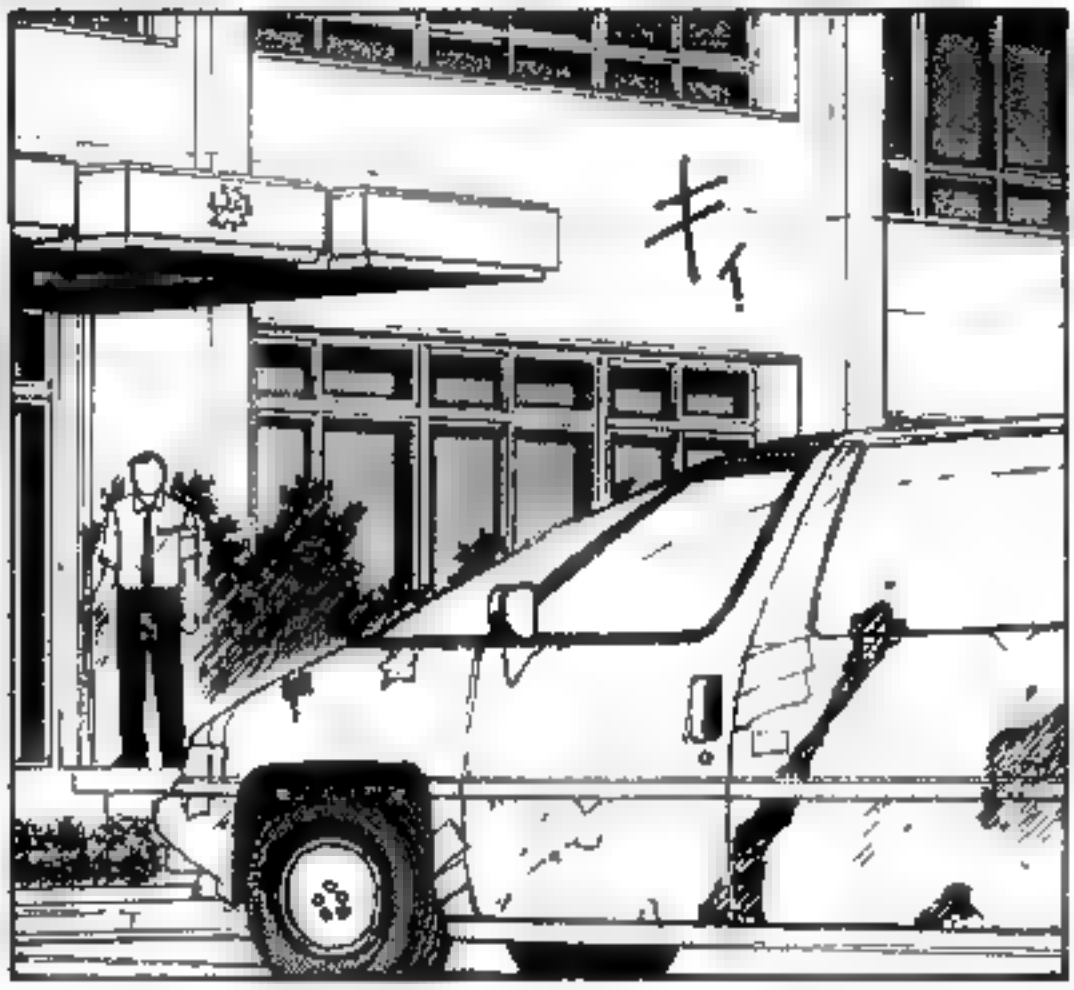
...FEEL THAT?

DO YOU...

THANK YOU...



UM...



IT WAS MY CAR,
I COMMITTED
A HIT AND RUN.

I'M HERE REGARDING
THE ACCIDENT
YESTERDAY WHERE
TWO KIDS WERE
RUN OVER.

WHO IS THE CHILD IN YOUR CAR?

ROBERT FRANKLIN.

MY SON.

BOTH ARE BEING TREATED...

...BUT ARE NOT IN DANGER.

AH.

THE CHILDREN IN THE ACCIDENT...

UHH...

THANK GOD...

THANK GOD...

LET'S GO HOME.

HUH?

I'M GOING BACK ONE MORE TIME.

WHAT IS IT?

AKIRA-CHAN WAS THERE!

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

I MUST GO THERE!

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!

COME WITH ME!

SHIINA...

...I MUST GET BACK TO NORIO IMMEDIATELY.

BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT AKIRA-CHAN ...

COME, HOSHIMARU!

ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE!

DO WHAT I SAY!

THAT'LL TAKE TOO LONG

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT NOW?

DON'T DO ANY DANGEROUS NONSENSE!

HE DOESN'T WANT TO.

HE...

EH?

HOSHIMARU?!

DID YOU JUST MAKE HOSHIMARU ...?!

TSURUMARU...

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN ROLE TO PLAY.

I WANT TO GO BACK!

TSURUMARU!!

PUT ME DOWN HERE!

TSURUMARU!!

I'M ON YOUR SIDE, DAMN IT!!
WHAT'S THIS CRAP?!
OTOHIME !!

AH...

SHE'S ALWAYS GOT TO HAVE IT HER WAY!

NOW EVERYONE WILL SEE HER OF COURSE!

PFFT.

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!

AH?

WE'LL NOW BE TAKING QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

PLEASE!

MY NAME IS MATSUJI FROM THE ONICHI SHIMBUN.

FIRST THE US TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT CRASH YESTERDAY, THEN THE OVERNIGHT BOMBARDMENT OF THE CITY...

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN EXPLANATION ON THESE ACTIONS BY THE US MILITARY AND THEIR OBJECTIVES. THANK YOU.

UH...AS ALREADY MENTIONED, THESE ARE SECRET OPERATIONS.

I CANNOT ANSWER YOU UNFORTUNATELY.

EH...

I ALSO CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

PLEASE TELL US WHAT THE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WAS CARRYING.

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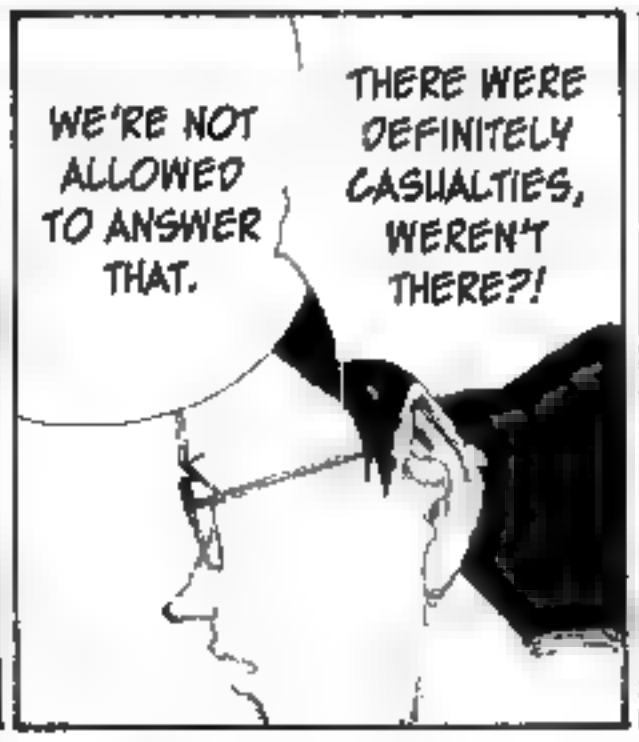
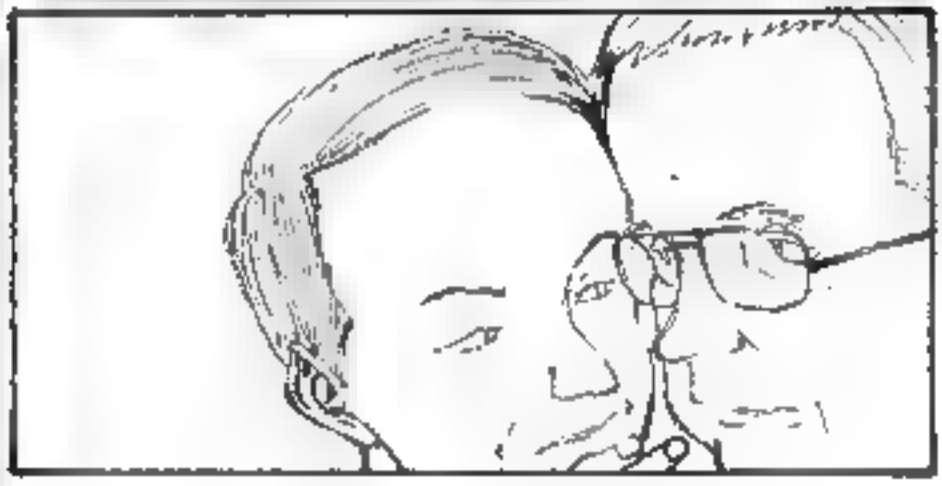
HOW MANY WERE INJURED IN THE MILITARY OPERATIONS?

WHAT ARE YOU ALLOWED TO TELL US ABOUT THEN?!


WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ANSWER THAT.
THERE WERE DEFINITELY CASUALTIES, WEREN'T THERE?!

WE CANNOT SAY THAT EITHER.



THANKS!

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Is Tsurumaru...

...linked to Hoshimaru?

All along Tsurumaru was...

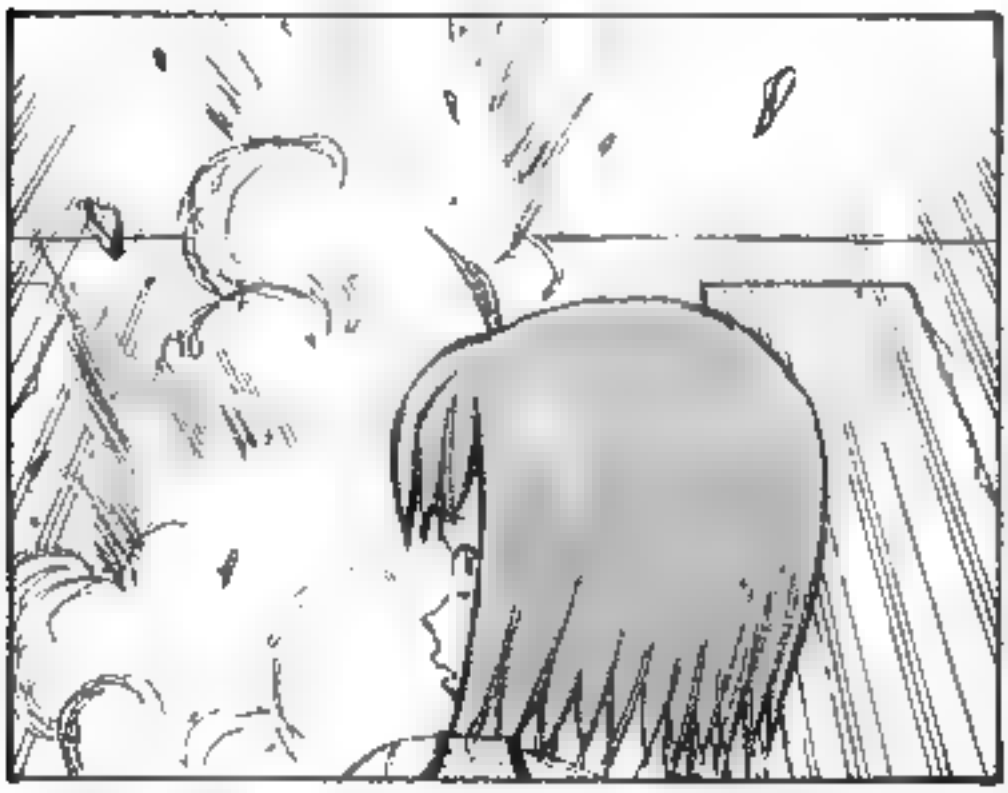
...was that also him?

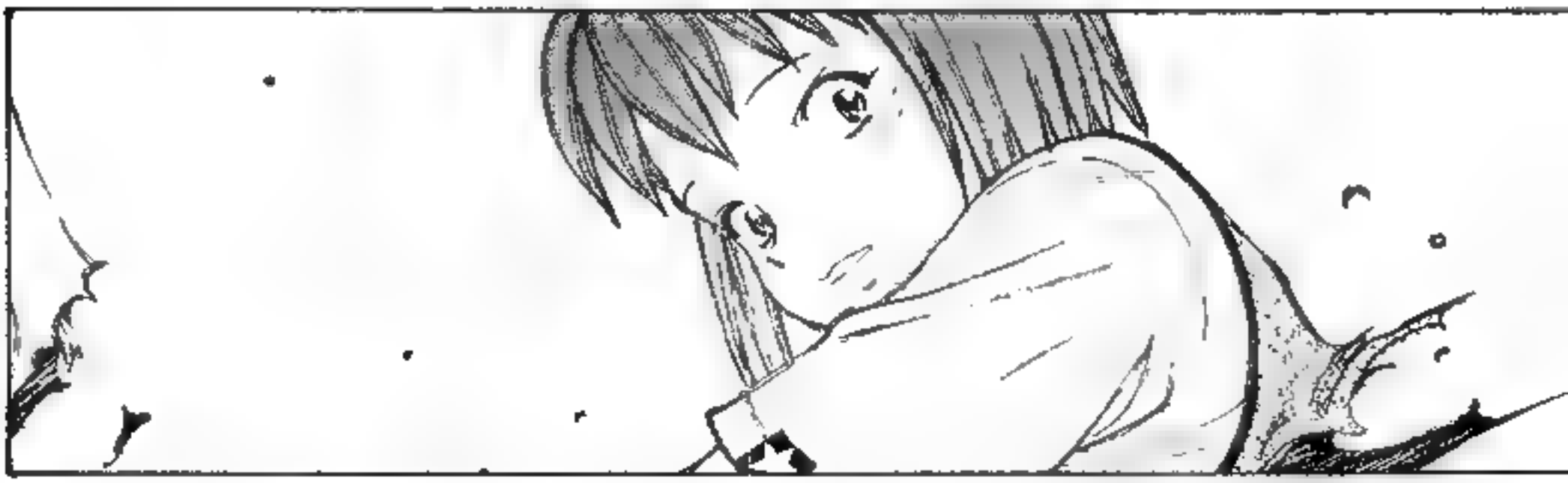
And Hiro-chan...

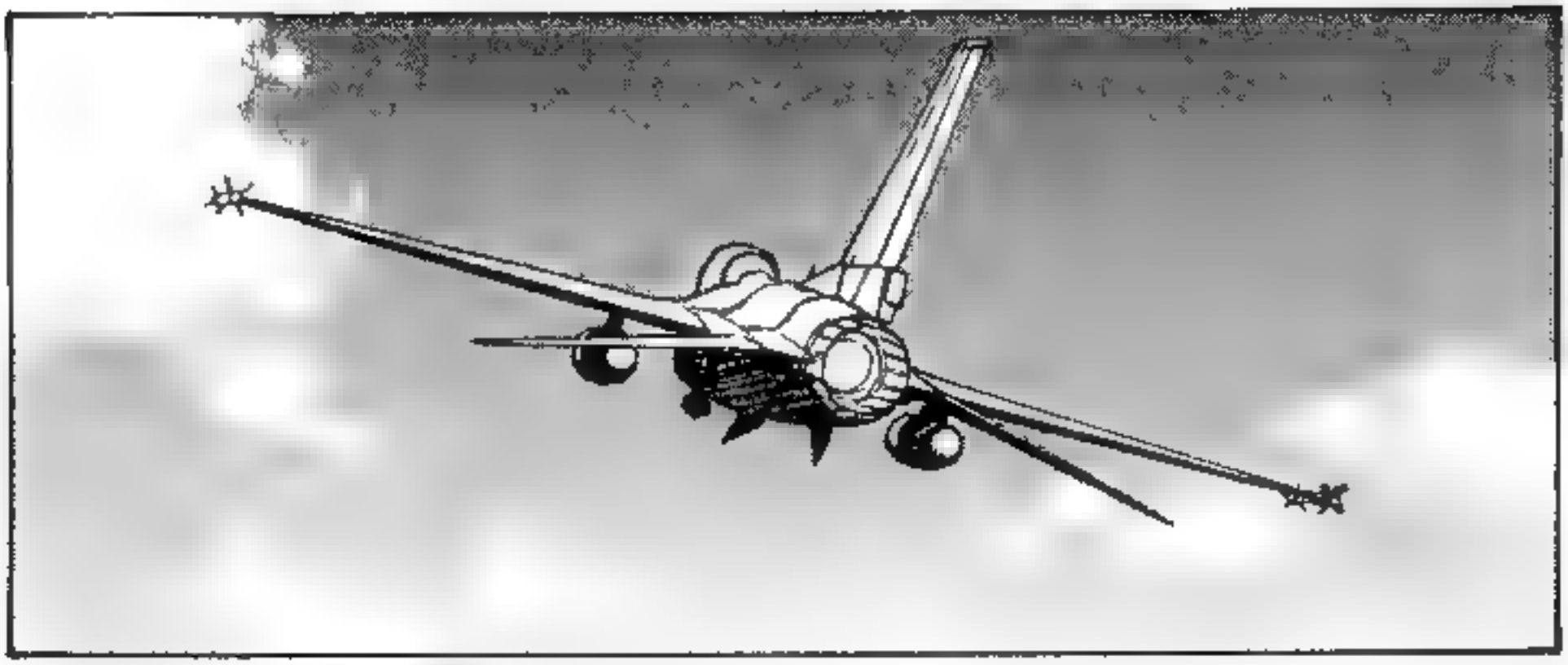
...what role...

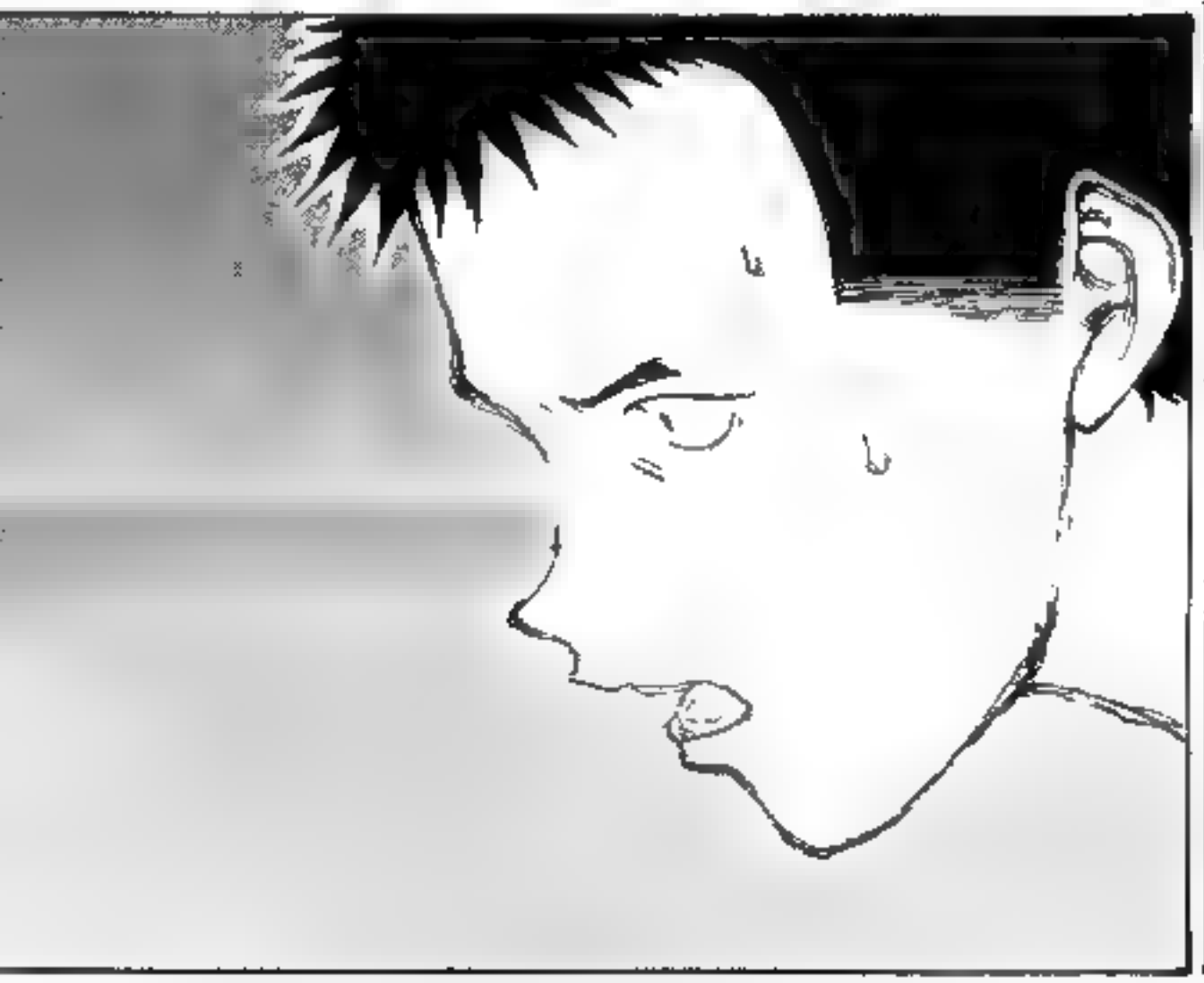
Yes, and...

...do I play
in all this?









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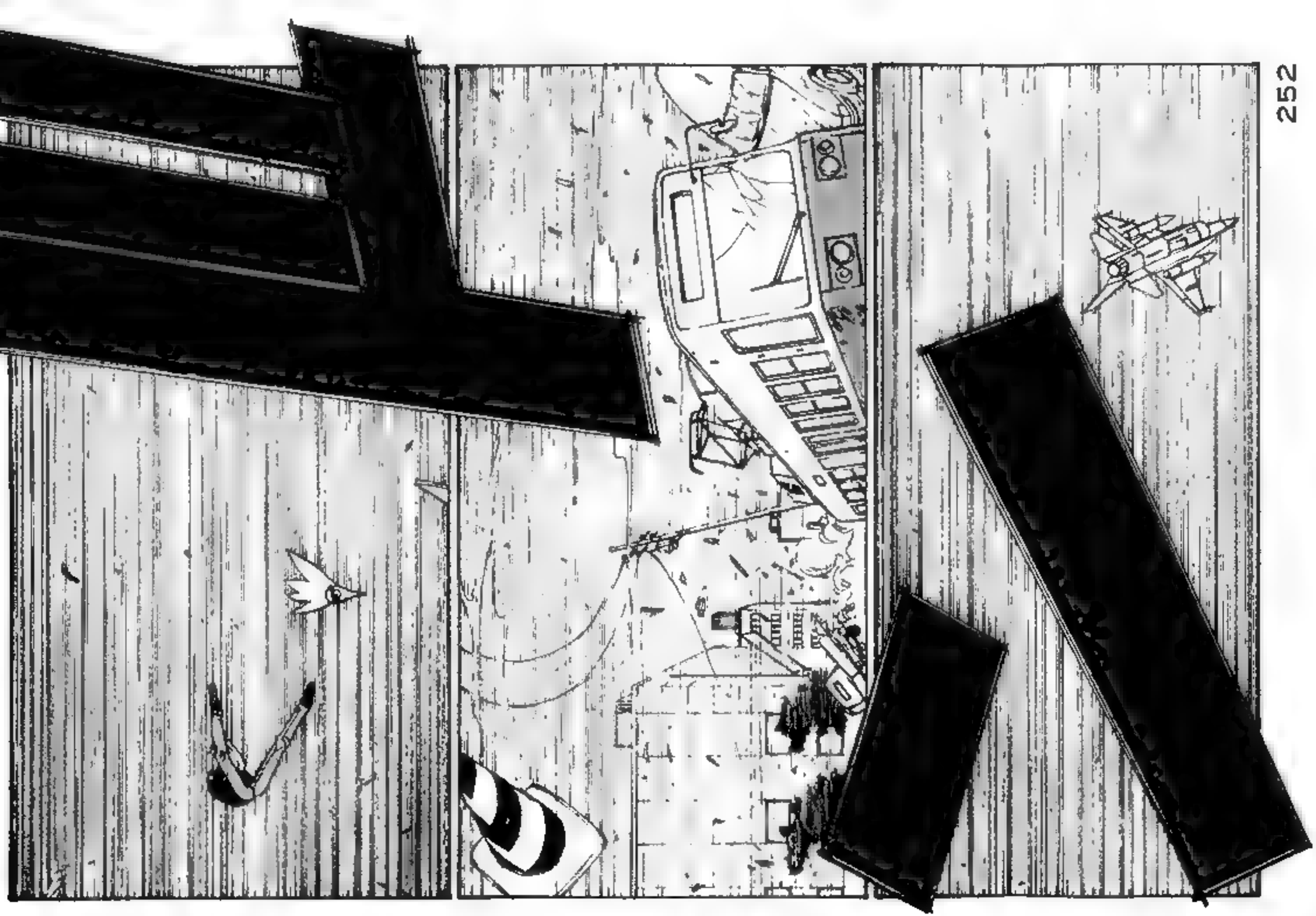
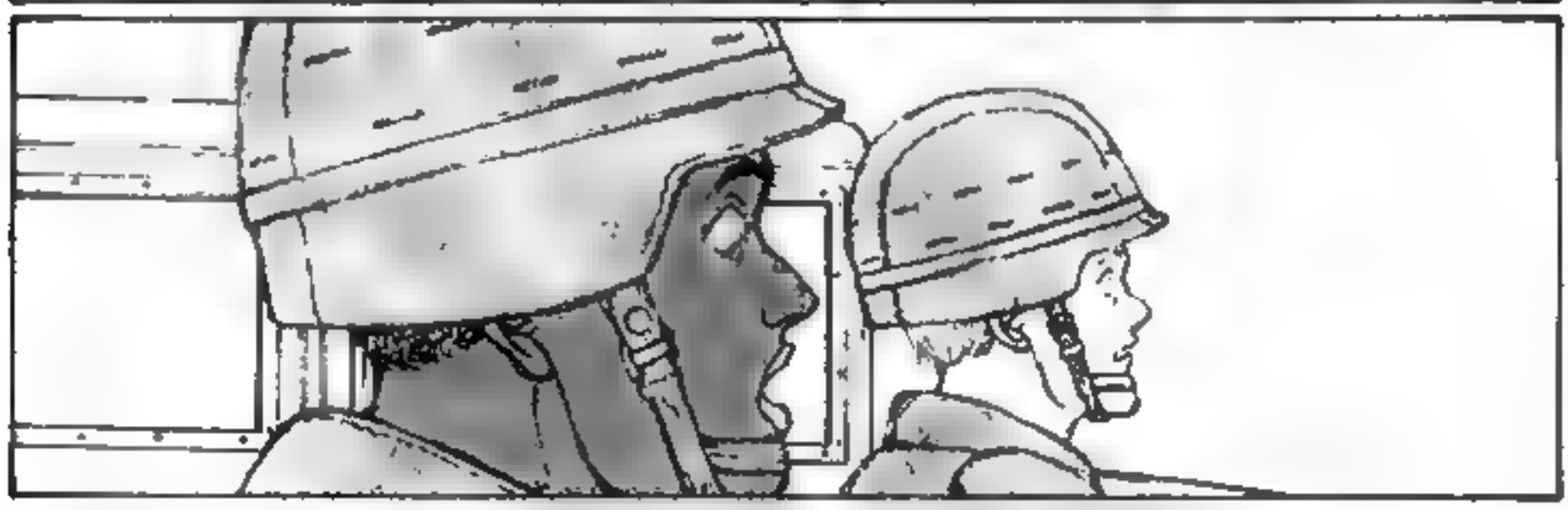
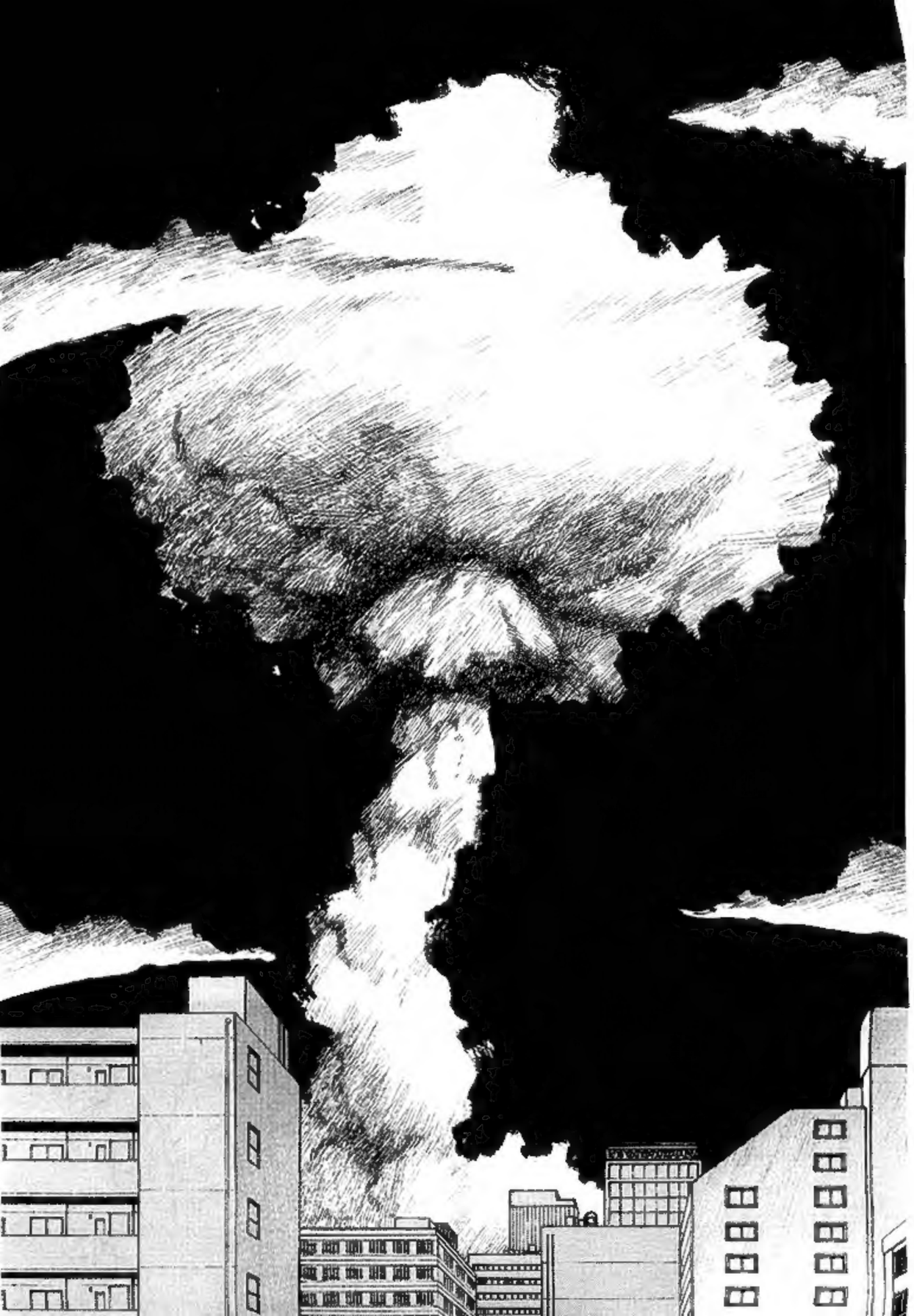
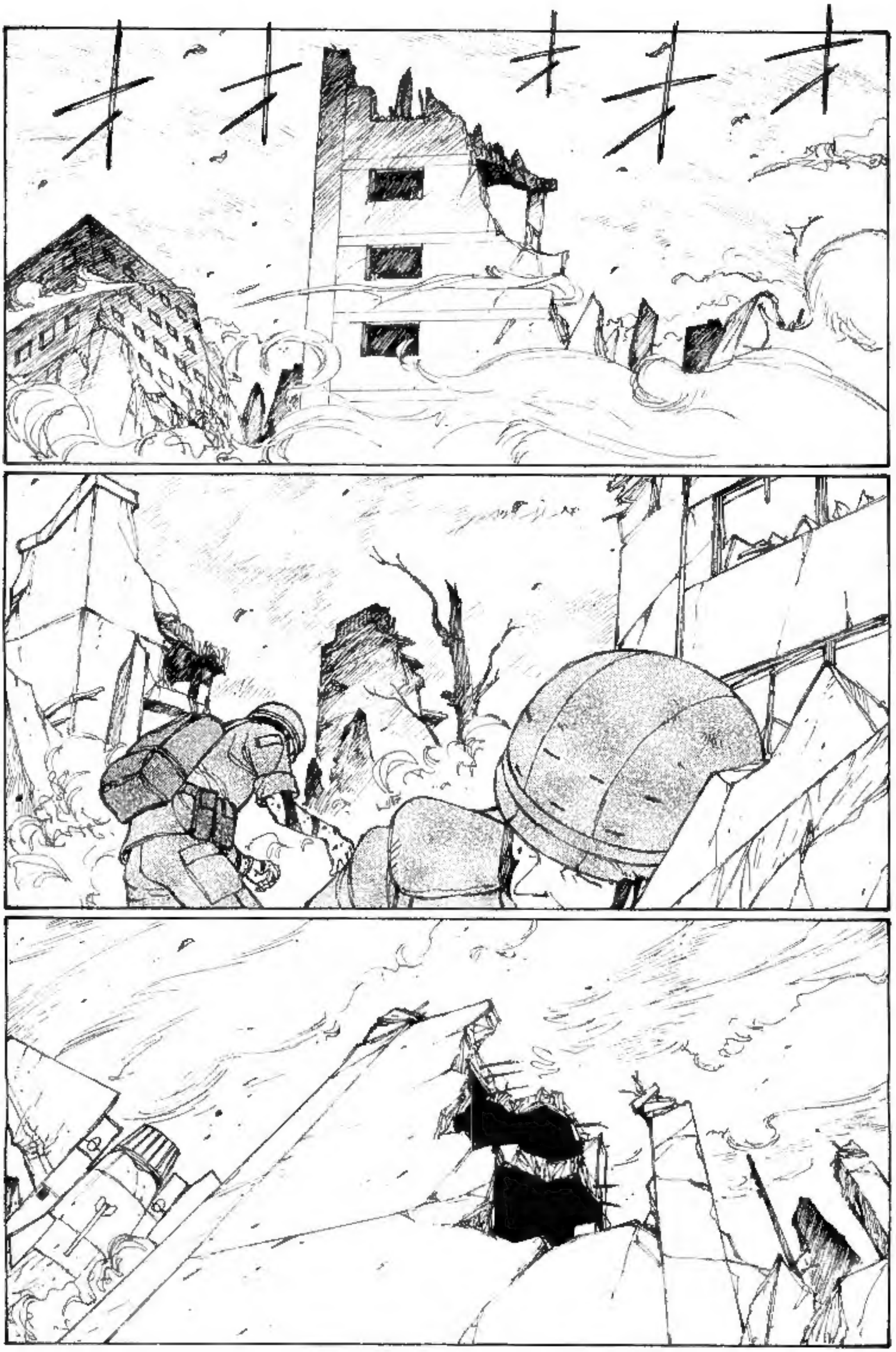
AH...

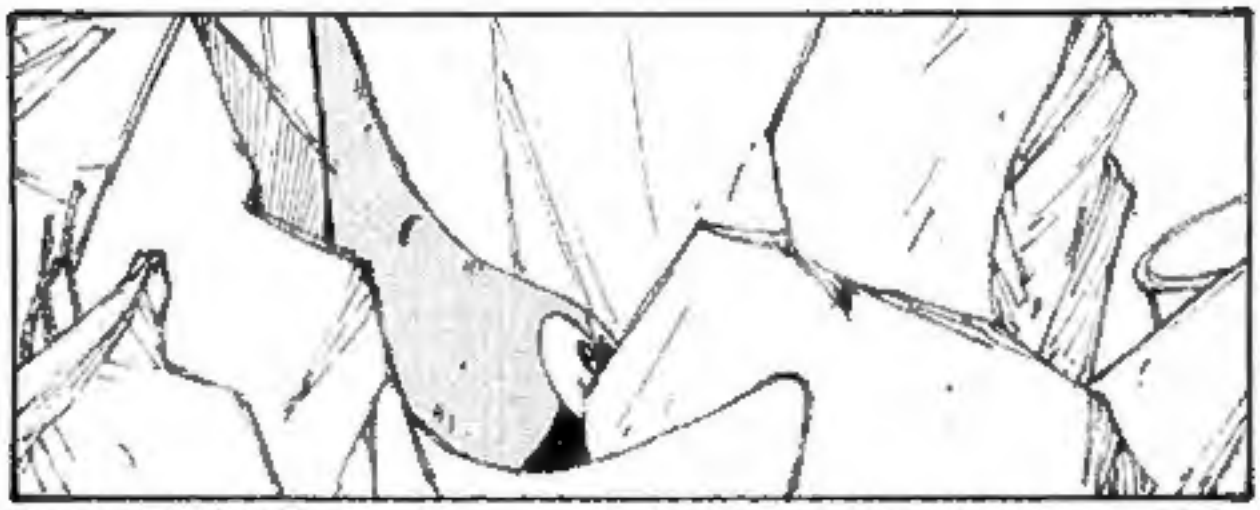
SHIINA?!

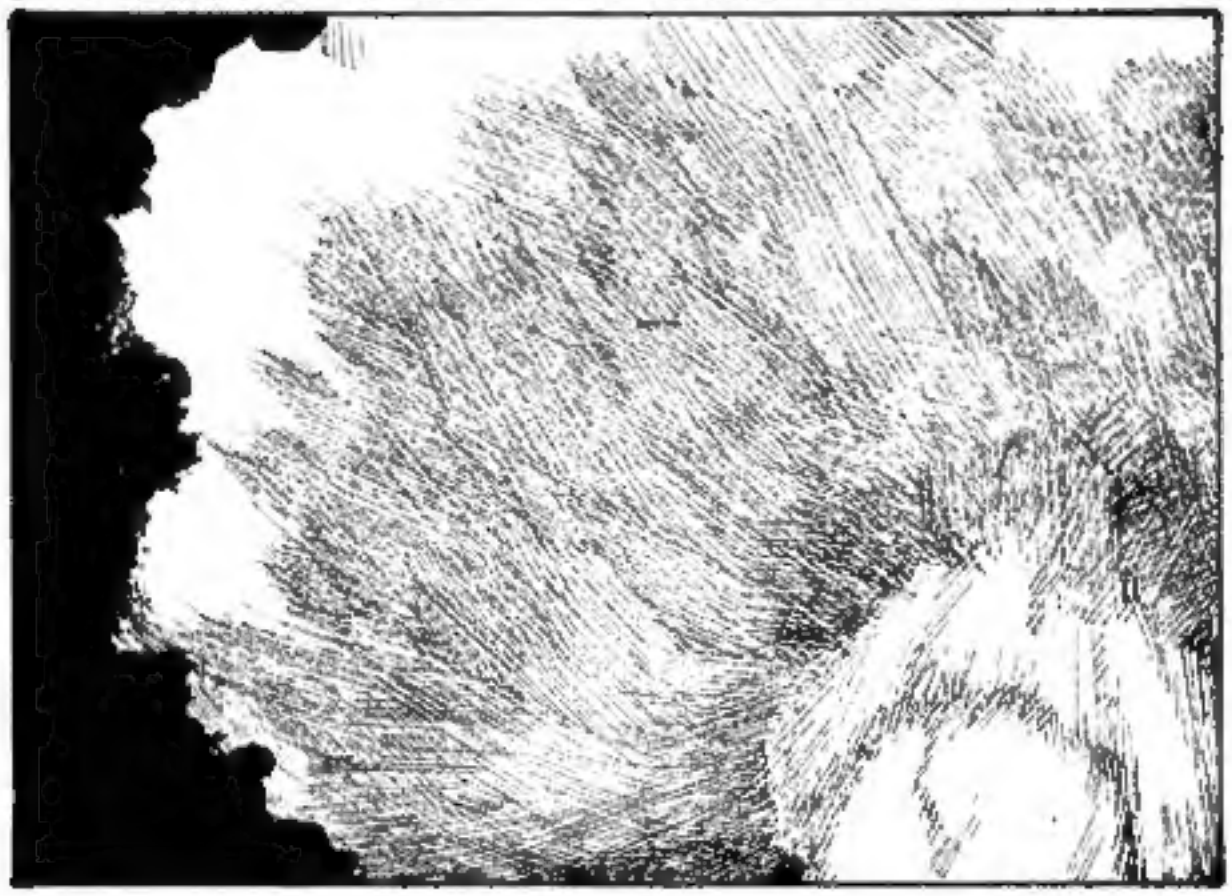


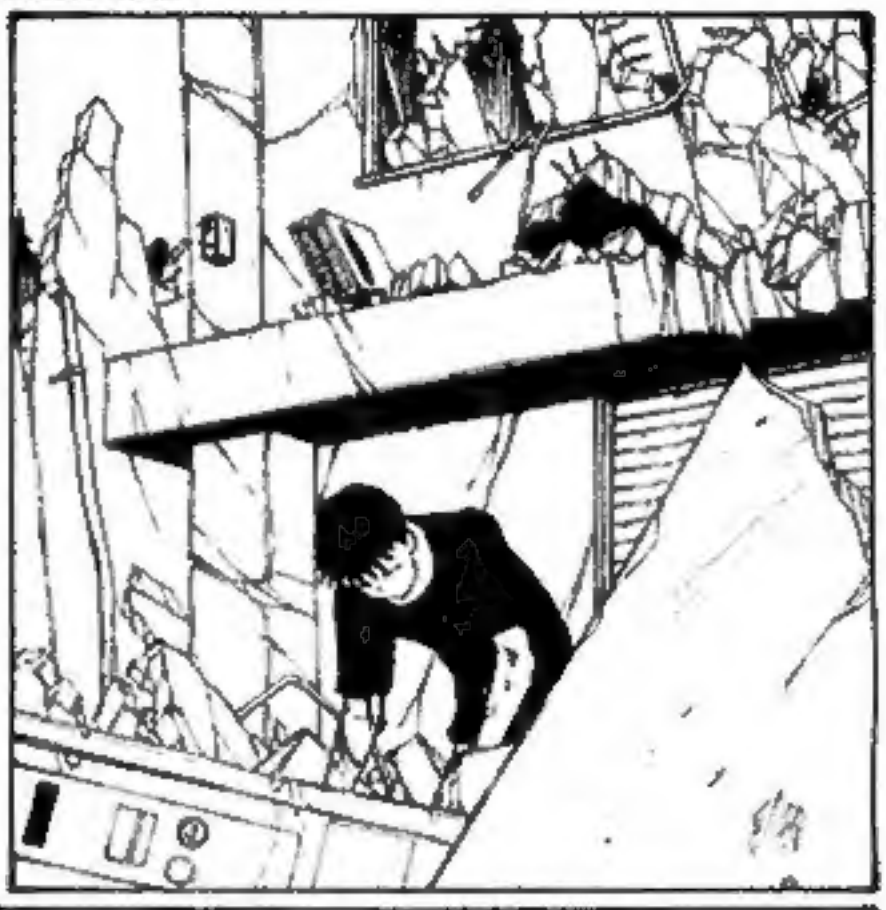












VOL.10 END